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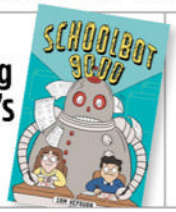
THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SPORTS
Little League's new baseball champion
p18

READING
Announcing this month's book pick!
p23



NEWS
Massive weigh-in at UK zoo
p3

September 5/September 12, 2025
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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

80 YEARS

The 80th anniversary of the end of World War II is observed p2

DID YOU KNOW?

- The war formally began on September 1, 1939.
- The conflict involved all seven continents.
- It officially ended on September 2, 1945.

DID YOU KNOW?
In total, about 70 million soldiers from the Allied and Axis nations fought in World War II.

The National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC

Honoring a survivor

The US Postal Service has unveiled a stamp honoring Elie Wiesel (above), a Holocaust survivor, author, and Nobel Peace Prize winner who condemned violence and hatred. He is best known for his books that shed light on Jewish experiences during the Holocaust, including *Night*. Wiesel died in 2016 at age 87.

WWII anniversary is observed

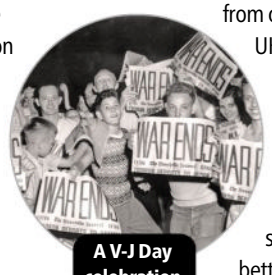
The 80th anniversary of the end of World War II is being marked around the globe. The conflict formally and fully ended on September 2, 1945.

What was World War II?

World War II, the deadliest conflict in world history, was a battle between the Allied forces and the Axis powers that took place from 1939 to 1945. The Allies were led by the US, UK, and Soviet Union (group of 15 countries run by Russia from 1922 to 1991), and the Axis powers included Germany, Italy, and Japan. The war began after Germany's Nazi party, led by Adolf Hitler, stormed across Europe, seizing many countries to expand its power. The Nazis also carried out the Holocaust, the mass killing of 6 million Jewish men, women, and children and millions of other people.

How did the war end?

World War II ended in stages. Italy surrendered in 1943, and the conflict in Europe concluded when Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945, which today is remembered as V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day). To force Japan to do the same, the US made the controversial decision to drop atomic bombs on the country on August 6 and August 9. On August 15, Japan said it would surrender. Several countries, including the UK and South Korea, recognize August 15 as the date the war ended. But the US and many other countries mark V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day) on September 2, when Japan formally surrendered.



A V-J Day celebration

What happened on September 2, 1945?

Allied and Japanese leaders gathered on the USS Missouri, an American battleship anchored in Japan's Tokyo Harbor, for a formal surrender ceremony. US Army General Douglas MacArthur, head of the Allied Forces, and Admiral Chester Nimitz were among the officials who signed a document outlining the steps Japan agreed to in exchange for an end to the fighting. Delegates from other Allied nations, including the UK, China, and the Soviet Union, also attended. In a radio address after the signing, US President Harry Truman declared September 2 to be the official V-J Day. "From this day we move forward," Truman said. "We move toward a new and better world of cooperation, of peace and international goodwill."

How is V-J Day being observed?

In Washington, DC, the National World War II Memorial was set to hold a commemorative ceremony on September 2, in which veterans of the war would lay wreaths at the memorial's freedom wall. Organizers called the event "a celebration of freedom for millions around the globe—and a solemn remembrance of those lost." The Battleship Missouri Memorial, located in Hawaii, scheduled a series of 80th anniversary events, including a concert and a new museum exhibit. Eight surviving veterans who served on the ship and witnessed the surrender ceremony were expected to attend. In Delaware, a V-J Day remembrance included exhibits of World War II memorabilia and uniforms. In Illinois, a ceremony was held by Rock Island Arsenal, a company that worked around the clock to arm troops during the war.

What else has happened this year?

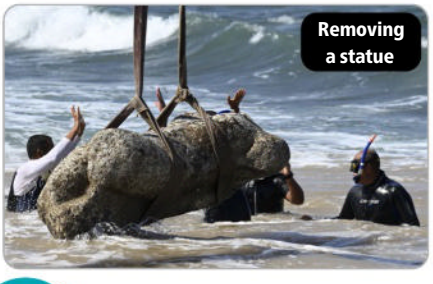
On August 15 in the UK, King Charles III, Queen Camilla, and 33 World War II veterans attended a V-J Day event that included two minutes of silence observed nationwide. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer called the end of the war "the greatest victory in the history of our nation." In China, descendants of a group of US pilots who fought against the Japanese invasion there were invited to take part in a V-J Day event. In Germany, Chancellor Friedrich Merz participated in a wreath-laying ceremony and acknowledged his country's responsibility for the war. At a ceremony in Japan, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba held a moment of silence and expressed "remorse" for the war.

Parts of sunken city are retrieved

Remnants of a 2,000-year-old sunken city were recovered from the waters of Abu Qir Bay, off the coast of what is now Alexandria, Egypt, on August 21. According to Egyptian authorities, the site was likely part of Canopus, a coastal city that was submerged by earthquakes and rising sea levels between the years 100 and 199.

During the recovery operation, cranes hoisted three statues—of a royal figure, an unknown person, and a sphinx—from the bay. The statues were missing their heads and feet. Officials said these were the "weakest" parts of the statues and were likely destroyed when the city was submerged. Pottery, jars, coins, and a copper scale were also removed from the site.

The underwater ruins also include limestone buildings, a dock, and a sunken ship. Much of what has been discovered will be left where it is due to international preservation guidelines. The artifacts that were removed will be restored and displayed at a museum, while "the rest will remain part of our sunken heritage," said an Egyptian official.


Removing a statue

COUNTING CREATURES
Every January, the London Zoo conducts an annual "stocktake" to count every animal at the facility.

Humboldt penguins are weighed.

London Zoo holds animal weigh-in

On August 19, the London Zoo in the UK began its annual weigh-in, during which experts track the health and well-being of more than 10,000 animals. On the first day of a weeklong process, zookeepers weighed creatures that included snails, giant katydids, ring-tailed lemurs, penguins, capybaras, and giant tortoises.

The London Zoo opened in 1828 and is part of a larger organization called the Zoological Society of London. About 400 species of animals, including several that are extinct in the wild, live at the zoo, which also operates wildlife conservation programs to save and protect endangered animals.

Getting animals to participate in the weigh-in requires patience and resourcefulness, zookeepers said. Humboldt penguins line up to get on the scale, but staff need to use lettuce to lure a giant Galapagos tortoise onto it. In other cases, scales are hidden in the animals' habitats so they can be weighed less conspicuously. Zoo official Daniel Simmonds told BBC News that squirrel monkeys are uncooperative and will sometimes try to get weighed twice in order to receive extra treats.

At the weigh-in, zookeepers also evaluate the animals' diet, health, growth, and whether they are pregnant. The information is added to a database called the Zoological Information Management System, which conservationists and wildlife experts around the world use to study endangered species. The annual process is "not just about numbers on a scale," Simmonds said. "Regular weigh-ins help zookeepers track the health of our animals...who play a vital role in our global conservation efforts."

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A VERY BIG BIRTHDAY

Ethel Caterham, the world's oldest living person, turned 116 years old on August 21. When asked about the secret to a long life, Caterham said, "Say yes to every opportunity because you never know what it will lead to."

Ethel Caterham

GIANT VEGGIES

It's been a "big" year for Graham Barratt. The UK gardener has set records for growing the longest pea pod (7 inches), the heaviest tomatillo (4.94 ounces), and the heaviest and longest luffas, a type of summer squash (see photo). The heaviest luffa was 6 pounds, 3.5 ounces, and the longest was 4 feet, 7 inches. "The rewards are huge," Barratt said of his hobby.

Graham Barratt

READING ON THE GO

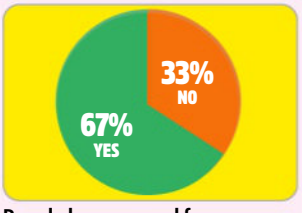
Book exchanges (below) are taking off at airports around the US. Travelers have embraced the "take one, leave one" system made popular by Little Free Libraries. Airport book swaps—sometimes called Flybraries or SkyLibs—add "a thoughtful, human touch to the travel experience," said one airport official.

ON THE COVER: NAMCO; LUWS; GETTY IMAGES (3); ON THIS PAGE: JESSICA RAY/LONDON ZOO; GETTY IMAGES; GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS (2); LEHIGH VALLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; USPS

MILITARY MEMBERS
The National Guard has about 430,000 members in 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia.

Members of the National Guard near the Capitol building

The 51st state—yes or no?



People have argued for many years over whether Washington, DC, a city that consists of federal land bordering Maryland and Virginia, should become the 51st state. In 2021, we asked readers for their opinion in a Big Debate. Two thirds of you (67%) said DC should become a state, while 33% of you disagreed.

National Guard deployed in Washington, DC

More than 2,200 National Guard troops are patrolling the streets of Washington, DC (the nation's capital, also known as DC), on orders from President Donald Trump. The National Guard is a branch of the US military that typically reports to state governors. Because Washington, DC, is not a state, its National Guard answers to the President.

What happened?

On August 11, Trump, a Republican, issued an executive order to deploy National Guard troops in DC. In addition to more than 900 members of the DC National Guard, about 1,300 National Guard troops from Republican-led states, including Louisiana, Ohio, South Carolina, and Tennessee, are stationed there. Trump also seized control of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD, the DC police force). Trump said these moves were necessary to combat a "crime emergency" in DC.

Why is this significant?

Previous Presidents have deployed the National Guard during specific emergencies, such as to help manage natural disasters and violent protests, but not during situations like this. Muriel Bowser, the mayor of DC, said the city is not experiencing an emergency and that the crime rate has dropped in the past two years to a 30-year low. Although a law was passed in 1973 allowing the President to take control of the MPD during emergencies, Trump is the first President to do so.

How have people reacted?

Some political experts said Trump's actions are politically motivated because the leaders of most major cities, including DC, are Democrats. Hakeem Jeffries, the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, said Trump is "manufacturing a crisis." Trump and other Republicans responded that Bowser's crime statistics are wrong. Many DC residents are unhappy with the takeover and said the city should become the nation's 51st state, which would give it more power.

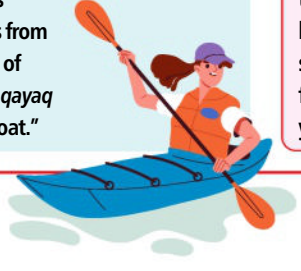
What will happen next?

There is no limit to the length of time Trump can keep the National Guard in DC. He said he wants to also send troops to Chicago, Illinois. But the Illinois governor, a Democrat, said crime in Chicago has plummeted and troops are not needed. Trump can control the MPD for up to 30 days. Beyond that, he would need approval from Congress, which returns to work on September 2 after a summer break.

WORD OF THE WEEK

KAYAK

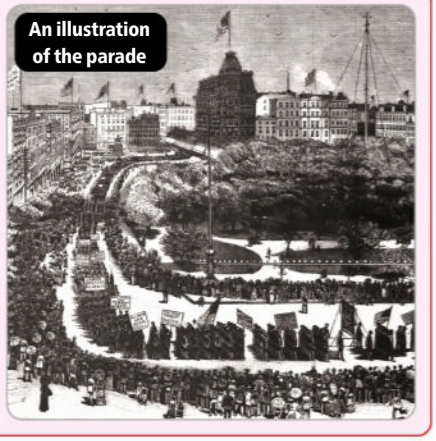
The Inuit people inhabit the regions from the Canadian Arctic to western Greenland. A few words from Inuit languages have entered English, such as "igloo," from *iglu*, meaning "house." "Kayak" is another—it comes from the Inuit language of Inuktitut, in which *qayaq* means "hunter's boat."



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

September 5, 1882
The first Labor Day in the US

On September 5, 1882, Labor Day, a holiday to salute workers, was first observed in the US. About 10,000 people marched in a parade in New York City. In 1887, Oregon became the first state to proclaim Labor Day a public holiday. In 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a bill into law making Labor Day a federal holiday. Today, it's celebrated every year on the first Monday in September.



An illustration of the parade

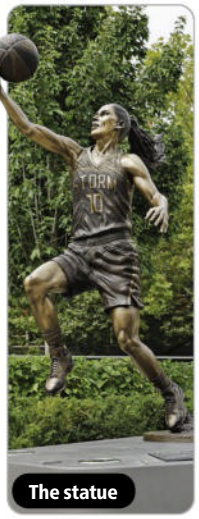
A public school in Texas

Controversial law is challenged

A federal judge blocked a law passed this year that would require the Ten Commandments (religious laws from the Bible) to be displayed in Texas public school classrooms. The judge ruled in favor of a group of families who said the law violated the First Amendment, which guarantees the separation of church and state. Federal judges recently blocked similar laws from going into effect in Louisiana and Arkansas. Texas said it will appeal the decision.

Statue honors basketball star

Sue Bird has become the first player in WNBA history to be honored with a statue. The Seattle Storm unveiled a bronze artwork by Julie Rotblatt Amrany outside their stadium, Climate Pledge Arena, depicting Bird making a layup. Bird played for the Storm for 21 years, winning four championships and being named an All-Star 13 times before retiring in 2022.


The statue

Pokémon World Championships

Major event for Pokémon fans

The Pokémon World Championships in Anaheim, California, attracted thousands of people to the biggest Pokémon event of all time, organizers said. USA's Giovanni Cischke won the Pokémon Video Game Championship, Canada's Riley McKay claimed the Trading Card Game competition, India's Ved Bamb took the Pokémon Go Championship, and Team Peru won Pokémon Unite.

A view of Acadia National Park in Maine

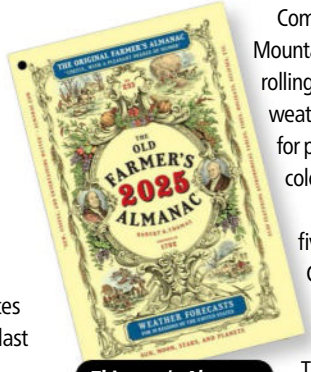
FALL FACT
The word "fall" became a common name for the season of autumn in the late 1800s.

Peak areas for fall foliage predicted

A list of the 21 areas of the country expected to offer the most stunning fall foliage in 2025 has been released by *The Old Farmer's Almanac*. Fall foliage refers to the brightly colored leaves that appear on trees when summer ends.

In autumn, which officially begins on September 22, the amount of daylight in a 24-hour period decreases and temperatures get cooler. This causes trees to slow their production of the green pigment chlorophyll, turning green leaves into shades of red, orange, and yellow. Fall foliage appears in Northern and Midwestern states by mid-September and in Southern states soon after that. The foliage can last into November in the South.

The Old Farmer's Almanac, founded in 1792, is an annual publication that uses historical data, weather trends, and reader reports to make predictions about the year ahead. The *Almanac* claims 80% accuracy with its predictions, although some experts say it's closer to 50%.



This year's *Almanac*

Acadia National Park in Maine is expected to have the best fall foliage this year, according to the *Almanac*. The park's diverse hardwood forests, which include an abundance of maple trees, are predicted to produce particularly vibrant reds and oranges. The colors will likely be at their peak brightness by early October.

Coming in second is the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas. The region's rolling hills, diverse tree species, and mild weather create a lengthy viewing time for people to enjoy the foliage. The peak color may not occur until late October.

Rounding out the *Almanac's* top five locations are the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains in New York, Traverse City in Michigan, and the Black Hills in South Dakota. The Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and North Carolina, a well-known destination for viewing colorful leaves, is sixth.

In addition to the *Almanac*, many guides track the timing of fall foliage. The interactive map at explorefall.com reveals when colors will peak in different areas across the country.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

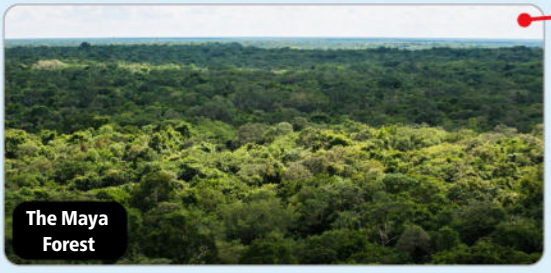
"Eight ponies escape stable, run loose through Massachusetts city" *UPI*

GETTY IMAGES (3); ALMANAC.COM; CVHS; THE POKÉMON COMPANY; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER

Around the world

Okanagan Lake, Canada
Salmon return to ancient land

For the first time in more than 100 years, salmon can swim up rivers from the Pacific Ocean to Okanagan Lake—a distance of more than 600 miles. A new fish passage allows salmon to travel past nine dams (water barriers) that had previously blocked their path. The Syilx people, who have lived in the area for thousands of years, created the passage. They called the return of the salmon "a powerful act of healing."



Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico
Major forest reserve announced

On August 15, leaders of three countries announced plans to establish a nature reserve to protect the Maya Forest. The Great Mayan Jungle Biocultural Corridor would become the second-largest reserve in Latin America, stretching across 14 million acres of rainforest in southern Mexico, northern Guatemala, and Belize. Officials will develop a plan for protecting the land, which could help local animals like jaguars and quetzals (a type of bird).

Belém, Brazil
Call for climate plans

Brazil urged all countries to submit their plans for addressing climate change before September 25 so they can be discussed at COP30, an international climate conference that will be held in Belém in November. So far, fewer than 30 countries have shared their plans under the Paris Agreement, a 2015 treaty between most of the world's nations to limit global temperature increases.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Ships gather for anniversary

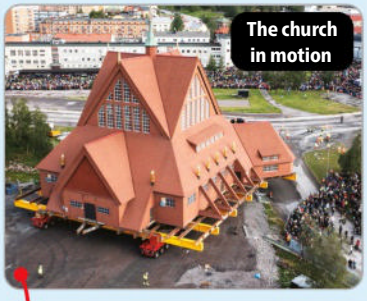
Hundreds of tall ships from around the world, many with masts and ropes decorated with colorful flags, sailed into Amsterdam to celebrate the city's 750th anniversary. As each ship arrived, it was greeted with its country's national anthem. Thousands of people in smaller boats joined in, filling the harbor for the five-day festival.

Venice, Italy
Ferry frustration

Residents in Venice are upset that tourists are overcrowding local ferry services. One of the city's most popular tourist activities is a ride in a traditional boat called a gondola, which usually costs about $100. But social media influencers have shared that *traghetti*—ferry boats for locals crossing the city's Grand Canal—cost less than $3. Now there are long lines for the ferries. Officials are considering raising prices for tourists and adding more crossings.

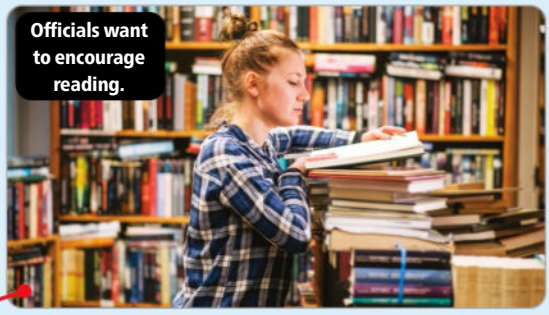
ALAMY; REUTERS (2); GETTY IMAGES (5); SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

Around the world


The church in motion

Kiruna, Sweden
Historic church moved

A 113-year-old church was relocated to protect it as a nearby mine expands. The 600-ton wooden building was lifted onto a platform and then wheeled at 0.3 miles per hour to its new location three miles away. Streets were widened to make room for its journey, and 10,000 people, including Sweden's king, watched the operation.


Officials want to encourage reading.

Denmark
Book tax canceled

The Danish government is eliminating a 25% sales tax on books in an attempt to fix a "reading crisis." Denmark's tax rate on books was the highest in the world, and a recent study found that one quarter of the nation's 15-year-olds couldn't understand a simple piece of writing. Experts hope that reducing the price of books will get more young people to read them. The government has also set aside money for libraries and schools.

Tourists on Jeju

Jeju Island, South Korea
New rules for tourists

Police on Jeju Island have created a guidebook telling visitors how to behave. Tourism has increased on the island, which has already welcomed 7 million visitors this year. As the number of tourists has grown, there have been more complaints of misbehavior, including people littering and leaving restaurants without paying. The guide, available in Chinese, English, and Korean, warns that such actions can result in fines of up to $143.

A flooded road

Pakistan
Heavy rain causes floods

Flash floods swept through northern Pakistan, filling streets and villages with water. The country's monsoon season (period of heavy rain) has also caused landslides, which have killed people and destroyed buildings. Since June, thousands of residents have left their homes and about 800 people have died. Rescue workers have been clearing roads and restoring power.

Somalia
Disease on the rise

Cases of diphtheria, a serious illness spread by coughs and sneezes, are growing across Somalia. The government has counted 1,616 cases and 87 deaths from the disease this year, and most of the people infected are children under 15. Officials say a shortage of vaccines (medicines that prevent an illness), poor living conditions, and reductions in medical aid from other countries, including the US, are causing the illness to spread.

A child gets a vaccine.

Should students be graded on effort?

Some people say hard work counts, but others say that doesn't pass the test.

What you need to know

- **Until the late 1700s, students passed a course by discussing the material with an instructor and proving they had mastered it.**
- **About 240 years ago, the first grades were "best," "worse," and "worst."**
- **The letter grading system became popular in the early 1900s to help teachers and schools manage an increasing number of students.**
- **Effort grades are often based on class participation, completing work, and submitting assignments on time.**

OLD SCHOOL
The first public school in the US is the Boston Latin School, which was founded in 1635 and still runs today.

School can be hard work, with students doing assignments, completing projects, and taking tests in many subjects in class and at home. Teachers give letter or number grades to let students know how they're doing, but some people feel that kind of assessment doesn't tell the whole story. They think grades should also reflect how much effort and time a student puts in and not just the end result. Some teachers do take that into consideration. But others think grades should be a clear and direct way of showing one thing, which is how well a student understands the subject matter. What do you think? Should students be graded on effort?

Yes—because hard work pays off

It's simple: Students who are rewarded for putting in more work will make more of an effort. It's a great way to motivate them and make them active participants in their own education. They may even come to enjoy school more when they realize it's not just about the final reward of a letter or number grade. It's also about the process of learning. And some students might not do as well in one subject as they do in others no matter how hard they try, which makes getting a lower grade in that subject especially frustrating. Instead of making them feel bad about their grades, let them feel their efforts as students are acknowledged.

No—effort is different for everyone

Effort is important, but that's not the most useful lesson for life. By the time kids get to college and jobs, it's all about accuracy and excellence, not how hard they try. Besides, effort is hard to define and different for every student. A quieter person might make an effort by speaking up more in class discussions, while a struggling reader might spend more time with a book outside class. Plus, teachers can't possibly know for sure how much time and energy a student spends outside the classroom trying to learn the material. So asking them to grade based on effort puts them in a difficult position.

YES Three reasons students should be graded on effort

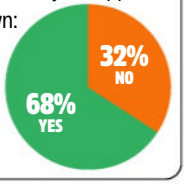
1. **Grading on effort would motivate kids to work harder and take school seriously.**
2. **Rewarding real effort, not just results, teaches students the crucial life lesson that hard work is important.**
3. **Making effort count would reduce some of the stress and disappointment that can come with other kinds of grades.**

NO Three reasons students should not be graded on effort

1. **Grading for quality, accuracy, and excellence will better prepare students for college and work.**
2. **There is no clear or simple way to define and measure student effort—everyone works and learns differently.**
3. **It's unfair to ask teachers to evaluate effort that takes place outside school.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if boats should have speed limits. Your votes showed that you support slowing down: 68% of you said yes, while 32% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think students should be graded on effort or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Bringing the laughs

Nate Bargatze wins fans over with his family-friendly comedy.

For more than 20 years, Nate Bargatze has been making families laugh with his wholesome style, but 2025 may be his biggest year yet. He's on a record-breaking tour, released the best-selling memoir *Big Dumb Eyes: Stories from a Simpler Mind*, and is set to host the 77th Emmy Awards on September 14.

Bargatze grew up in Nashville, Tennessee. His dad was a clown turned magician, which inspired him to go into show business. Unlike many comics, Bargatze avoids edgy or mature themes. His often PG-rated material focuses on his Southern upbringing and navigating everyday life, with jokes about chocolate milk, getting a second dog, and splitting household chores.

After getting his start as a performer in clubs, Bargatze made his TV debut in 2011 on Comedy Central and has since released five specials. His breakout special was *The Tennessee Kid* in 2019, and his most recent is *Your Friend, Nate Bargatze*, which is nominated for two Emmys. He has also hosted *Saturday Night Live* (*SNL*) twice. A sketch from his first time hosting in 2023, in which he played George Washington joking about the metric system, brought him national fame.

The sketch on *SNL*

The popularity helped power Bargatze's live shows. His 2024 tour made him the top-grossing comedian of the year. Now his current tour is setting records for attendance and sales in cities such as St. Paul, Minnesota, and Tallahassee, Florida.

Bargatze said he's excited to host the Emmys. "I want to do what I do on the road—just make everybody feel like they're having fun," he told the Gold Derby site.

Nate Bargatze

HOLLYWOOD CALLING

In 2026, Nate Bargatze will make his feature film debut, starring in the comedy *The Breadwinner*. He is also a co-writer on it.

A star dancer retires

Gillian Murphy, principal dancer at American Ballet Theatre (ABT), has retired after nearly 30 years. ABT is one of the world's most prestigious dance companies, and Murphy was its longest-serving member. She joined ABT in 1996 at age 17 and stood out for her technique and commanding stage presence. She was promoted to principal dancer in 2002. For her final performance, she danced *Swan Lake*, the ballet that first launched her ABT career. She plans to continue in the art form by teaching the next generation of dancers.

Gillian Murphy

Susan Namangale

Champion for chess

Susan Namangale is on a mission to make chess accessible to everyone. As an official with the International Chess Federation, she coordinates chess development in 10 African countries. Raised in a village in Malawi, she discovered chess at age 9. As a teen and an adult, she competed in tournaments. In 2023, she founded the Dadaz Chess Academy for kids who can't afford to play. She has since launched 150 school chess clubs and distributed boards to prisons and shelters. Calling the game a tool for learning as well as hope, she told *The New York Times*, "Chess is for everyone."

OVERHEARD

"We're scared of things we don't understand."

Award-winning wildlife filmmaker Bertie Gregory on swimming with great white sharks for his new documentary, *Sharks Up Close*

GETTY IMAGES (4); AMOS GUMULIRA/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX

JUMPING MONKEYS
Long-tailed macaques can leap more than 16 feet from tree to tree, using their tails for balance.

A macaque trades a pair of glasses for snacks.

Grand theft footwear

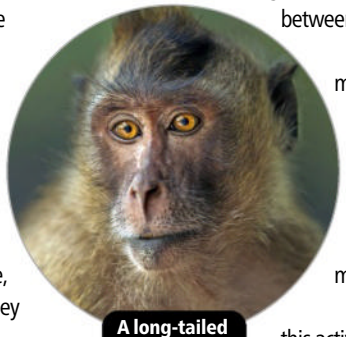
A fox has reportedly been stealing shoes from campers at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. The fox—nicknamed Swiper, the Sneaker Snatcher, or the Midnight Mismatcher—has taken at least 32 shoes. Park officials say visitors should avoid putting out shoes for the wild animal so it doesn't get used to contact with humans.

A red fox

Clever monkeys steal from humans

For a group of animals living at a historic Hindu temple in Asia, monkey business is booming. The long-tailed macaques have learned to swipe valuables from humans to get rewards.

Uluwatu Temple is one of the holiest sites on Bali, an island province of Indonesia. Located on a 230-foot-tall cliff, the temple is a popular attraction for tourists. About 650 long-tailed macaques live there. They are believed to be spiritual guardians of the temple, and temple caretakers ensure they are healthy and well cared for.



A long-tailed macaque

Unfortunately for tourists, these monkeys have also become master thieves. They steal wallets, glasses, and as many as 10 phones a day. To get the macaques to give up their loot, a human—typically one of the temple's monkey handlers—must offer them snacks such as cookies or mangoes. This can require long negotiations between humans and monkeys.

Research has found that some monkeys can tell which items humans value highly. When the macaques have claimed a particularly high-value item, such as a smartphone, they wait for a better reward, like more food, before returning it.

No one is certain when or why this activity began. One worker at the site said the thefts started after the temple established a regular feeding schedule and banned tourists from giving the monkeys food.

Before the Uluwatu Temple became a tourist attraction, however, the macaques reportedly stole jewelry from visitors who came for religious ceremonies. Experts say the animals must have learned this behavior over time and passed it down across generations of macaques, representing a kind of cultural intelligence.

Temple workers have tried various methods to stop the thievery, such as changing the monkeys' feeding schedules and offering them different food. So far, however, these efforts have been unsuccessful. For now, the staff encourages visitors to keep their valuables in a zipped bag and offers sticks to help them fend off scheming macaques. "The monkeys have taken over the temple," Jonathan Hammé, a tourist from the UK whose sunglasses were stolen, told *The Wall Street Journal*. "They're running a scam."

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Niagara Cave, Minnesota

Niagara Cave, in Harmony, Minnesota, started forming thousands of years ago but wasn't discovered until 1924. Visitors can take guided tours of the cave about 200 feet below its surface and follow a hike about a mile long beneath ceilings nearly 100 feet high. The cave is made of layers of limestone rock, where there are visible, 450-million-year-old fossils of prehistoric aquatic creatures that lived in the shallow seas that once covered the region. There is an underground stream and a 60-foot waterfall. White-tailed deer, foxes, badgers, and other animals live outside the cave.

A white-tailed deer fawn

BOAT LAUNCH
Kayaks were invented by Inuit communities in the Arctic, who used them to hunt and fish.

The kayakers paddled more than 300 miles.

Teens kayak down restored river

Young people from at least six Native American tribes have completed a 310-mile kayak trip down the Klamath River, from Oregon to northern California. This was the first time in more than 100 years that anyone has paddled the river's full length.

The Klamath was once a major habitat for salmon. For many years, it has been important to Indigenous (first to inhabit a place) communities such as the Karuk Tribe, whose members have traditionally canoed on the river and used its salmon for food and ceremonies. But when the power company PacifiCorp built dams (water barriers) in the river in the early 1900s, migrating salmon were no longer able to pass through.

Tribes and environmental activists campaigned for decades until the US government removed the dams last year. Salmon began to return, and the Paddle Tribal Waters program taught 45 Indigenous teens how to kayak through the rapids. They began their river journey on June 12 and reached its end a month later. "I think our ancestors would be proud," said Tasia Linwood, a 15-year-old from the Karuk Tribe.

Animal of the week: Eurasian otter

A Eurasian otter has been spotted in Malaysia for the first time in 11 years. The species was thought to be gone from Southeast Asia until an organization caught the rare animal on camera while looking for big cats in a forest reserve.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 3 to 5 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Freshwater such as rivers and marshes
- **SIZE:** About 4 feet long, weighing 9 to 24 pounds
- **DIET:** Mainly fish, eels, and crayfish
- **FUN FACT:** They have whiskers on their elbows, which help them sense vibrations in the water.

Good week / Bad week

Baltic seals

The number of ringed seals in the Baltic Sea has risen from 5,000 to 25,000. In the 1970s, these seals were on the brink of extinction, but bans on hunting and hazardous materials have helped boost their population.

Ospreys

Experts say that in recent years, many osprey chicks have died in their nests in Chesapeake Bay, a population hub for the birds. They think chicks have starved due to overfishing of their primary food source, menhaden fish.

ASK AN EXPERT

"If spiders can't see well, how do they know who they are attacking?" Aubrianna, 11, Illinois

Alex Winsor
Spider expert, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Some spiders spin big, round webs. Others lay silk strands on the ground. When a bug wanders in, the silk vibrates like a guitar string. Spiders don't need to see the bug—they feel it. Tangled prey, other spiders, and falling leaves send different vibrations, telling the spider what is nearby.

A golden orb weaver

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about the University of Massachusetts Amherst at umass.edu/biology.

CHRIS PIETSCH/THE REGISTER-GUARD; GETTY IMAGES (3); ALAMY; ON LEFT PAGE: NYIMAS LAULA FOR WSJ; GETTY IMAGES (3); ALAMY

A gaming universe of

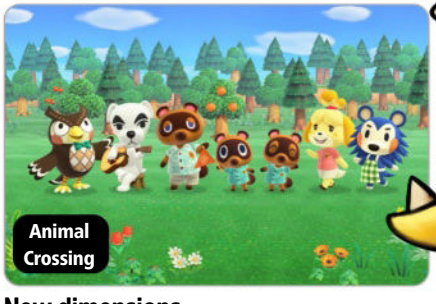
Discover how a card maker became a digital entertainment empire.

Nintendo created many of the most famous video games in history as it reshaped play, entertainment, and culture around the world.

An early Nintendo Entertainment System

The first consoles

Nintendo was established in Japan in 1889 as a company that made playing cards. Its first major breakthrough in video games came in 1981, when it released the arcade game Donkey Kong. It featured a hero named Jumpman who later became Mario, the company's flagship character. Nintendo unveiled its first home video game console, the Family Computer (or Famicom), in Japan in 1983. It was later redesigned as the Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) and released in the US in 1985. Nintendo continued to innovate by releasing its first handheld console, Game Boy, in 1989 and launching its next-generation console, the Super Nintendo, in 1990. Super Mario Kart, the first game in the iconic Mario Kart franchise, was released for this system.



Animal Crossing

New dimensions

A new home console, the Nintendo 64, launched in 1996. It was a major upgrade, with 3D graphics and capability for four players at a time. The first Super Smash Bros. game was released for this system, along with other iconic games such as The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time. A Game Boy Color released in 1998 displayed games—like the first Pokémon games—in full color. Nintendo's next home console, the GameCube, came in 2001. Its famous games include Metroid Prime and the original Animal Crossing.

Characters from the world of Nintendo

FUN FACT
The character Mario was named after Mario Segale, who was the mustached landlord of Nintendo's US warehouse.

OUT OF THIS WORLD
Cosmonaut Aleksandr Serebrov brought a Game Boy to a space station in 1993, becoming the first person to play video games in space.

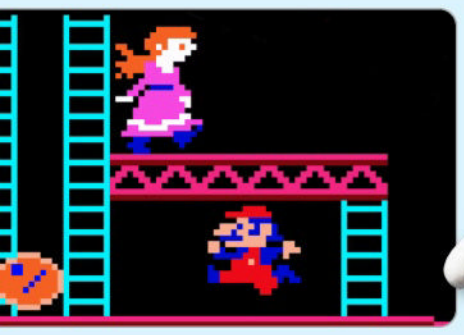
A video game designer and pioneer

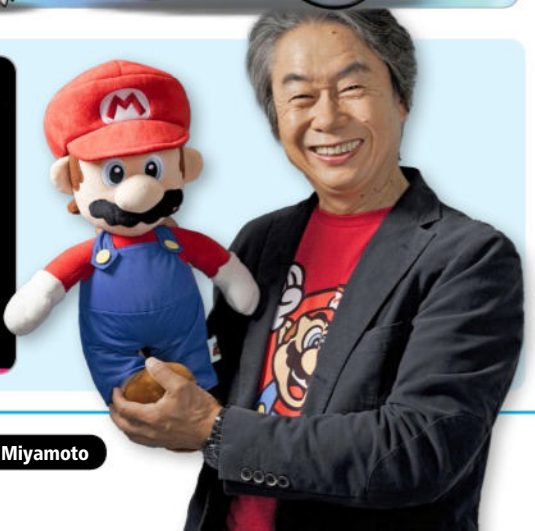
Few people have influenced video games more than Shigeru Miyamoto. He joined Nintendo when the video game industry was in its infancy and is credited with designing the landmark Donkey Kong arcade game. Later, he designed the first Mario Bros. game and helped create the first game in The Legend of Zelda franchise, drawing on his childhood memories of exploring Japan's natural landscapes. Now in his 70s, Miyamoto is still actively involved at Nintendo. "I'm really thankful that there is so much energy around things that I have worked on," he told *The Guardian* newspaper in 2023.

ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF NINTENDO; CONSOLE AND WII: GETTY IMAGES; MIYAMOTO: IRWIN WONG/GUARDIAN/EYEVINE/REDUX

imagination

WOW! The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom broke launch records in 2023 when it sold more than 10 million copies in three days.





Shigeru Miyamoto

The Wii

Getting in motion

In 2004, the company launched the Nintendo DS, a handheld console with two screens, including a touchscreen. It was a massive success, becoming the best-selling Nintendo console of all time with more than 154 million sold. Nintendo released its next home console in 2006. Called the Wii, it was noteworthy for its motion-sensing technology, which allowed players to swing a remote controller around like the characters in games. With Wii Sports, which also launched in 2006, players could swing a remote like a tennis racket, baseball bat, or golf club. Later, in 2011, The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword used enhanced motion tracking to let players swing their remote like the hero, Link, wields his sword.

Nintendo Switch 2

Expanding an empire

The Nintendo Switch launched in 2017. It's a hybrid console with detachable controllers and can be played at home on a TV or on the go in handheld mode. The Switch has been a huge hit for Nintendo, which has sold about 153 million of the consoles. In 2019, the company released a handheld-only version called the Switch Lite. Nintendo has also branched out into theme parks and movies, like *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* in 2023. *The Legend of Zelda* movie is scheduled for 2027. In June, Nintendo released its follow-up to the Switch, the Switch 2, which became the fastest-selling gaming hardware in US history. Some popular games of the Switch era have been Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild, Animal Crossing: New Horizons, and Super Mario Odyssey.

FAST FACT
In the US, the official time is determined by the Time and Frequency Division of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The length of a day is based on the movement of Earth.

Earth is spinning faster, changing time

Our planet is in constant motion. Every day, Earth spins in a circle and completes a full rotation. At the same time, Earth is also making its way around the Sun, a journey that takes 365 days—one year. Now, however, scientists say our planet is spinning faster than usual, and some are calling for an unprecedented move: subtracting time.

A day on Earth lasts about 86,400 seconds, or 24 hours. The exact timing of a full rotation varies, however, based on factors like gravity (natural force that causes things to fall toward Earth) and the positions of the Sun and Moon. On August 5, Earth's rotation sped up and the day was about 1.5 milliseconds shorter than usual. July 9 and July 22 were also unusually short days.

The US Naval Observatory

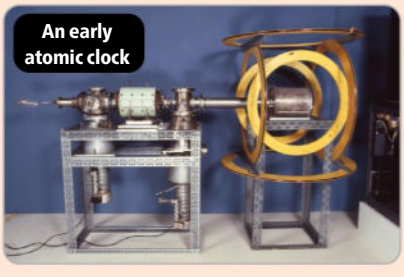
Scientists say this can affect a global timekeeping system called Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). The UTC is based on more than 400 atomic clocks (see sidebar at right) around the world, which calculate time to the billionth of a second. Computers, GPS, airlines, banking networks, and other systems are all aligned with the UTC, so this is how time remains consistent globally.

Most of the time, differences between Earth's rotational speed and the UTC cancel each other out and don't affect us. Sometimes, though, multiple variations add up enough to require an adjustment. Since 1972, timekeepers have addressed this by adding a "leap second" to the UTC. Now, as Earth spins faster, some scientists want to remove a leap second from the UTC to bring it back into alignment with the planet. This is called a negative leap second.

Other scientists have warned, however, that technology has changed dramatically since leap seconds were implemented. They say an adjustment could cause major problems with modern computer systems. For example, previous use of leap seconds made it difficult for airlines to schedule and coordinate flights around the world. In fact, as a result of these and other issues, the leap second is set to be retired in 2035.

Scientists at the US Naval Observatory (USNO) in Washington, DC, which tracks Earth's rotational speed, said the planet could change speed again and make up for the recent variations without requiring an adjustment. "Subtracting one second from UTC...remains only a small, yet concerning, possibility for the next few years," the USNO said.

What is an atomic clock?



An early atomic clock

Traditional clocks have a mechanism that moves or vibrates at a steady pace to count time, like a pendulum on a grandfather clock or a quartz in a wristwatch. Because these kinds of clocks are human-made, however, there are always slight variations in their movements and they are never entirely accurate.

Atomic clocks, however, use atoms (the tiny bits of matter that make up our universe) as the mechanism to measure time. Because they are made by nature, not humans, atoms are extremely consistent, and atoms of the same type are always identical to each other. Scientists determined that they could shine light on groups of the same atoms and make them vibrate in the exact same way every time. That movement is an extremely accurate and consistent way to track time.

Did different dinosaurs herd together?

Dinosaur footprints found in Canada suggest that different species roamed together in herds. Modern animals, like zebras and wildebeest that travel together across the African savanna, do the same thing. Larger groups are safer from predators.

The footprints are 76 million years old and were found in Alberta, Canada, in an area of about 312 square feet. Paleontologists (scientists who study the past through fossils) said 13 of the tracks belonged to ceratopsians, a group of horned dinosaurs including Triceratops. They think five or more dinosaurs were walking together.

Alongside these tracks was a set of footprints thought to belong to ankylosaurids, a group that includes Ankylosaurus. The prints aren't crowded and are equally spaced, so researchers believe the dinosaurs were walking together shoulder to shoulder.

Nearby, the team found two sets of Tyrannosaurus rex tracks, which could have belonged to predators following the group. The different species may have been herding together to defend themselves from the larger T. rexes.

"It was incredibly exciting to be walking in the footsteps of dinosaurs 76 million years after they laid them down," said Brian Pickles, an author of the study. Other scientists disagree with the findings, however. Future digs could reveal more details about how different dino species may have interacted with each other.

SO MANY SPECIES

Scientists have so far identified about 700 different species of dinosaur but suspect there are many yet to be found.

A rendering of a triceratops

Scientists suggest building a habit of expressing love.

Giving affection helps you feel loved

Research has found that showing affection for others makes you feel more loved. Scientists from Pennsylvania State University determined this in a study involving 52 people over a four-week period.

Researchers contacted volunteers six times a day to ask if they had expressed love for someone else, like friends and family members, and how loved they felt. They were also asked about their general happiness and emotional well-being.

The results showed that people who made an effort to express their love felt more cared for in return. And those who said they felt more loved reported better levels of emotional well-being. However, when people received affection, they weren't more likely to express it themselves.

The team said that encouraging people to express love is good for us. "Let's spread more love in the world by expressing love throughout our daily lives," the researchers said.

AMAZING INVENTION

A helmet that filters air

The ZYON

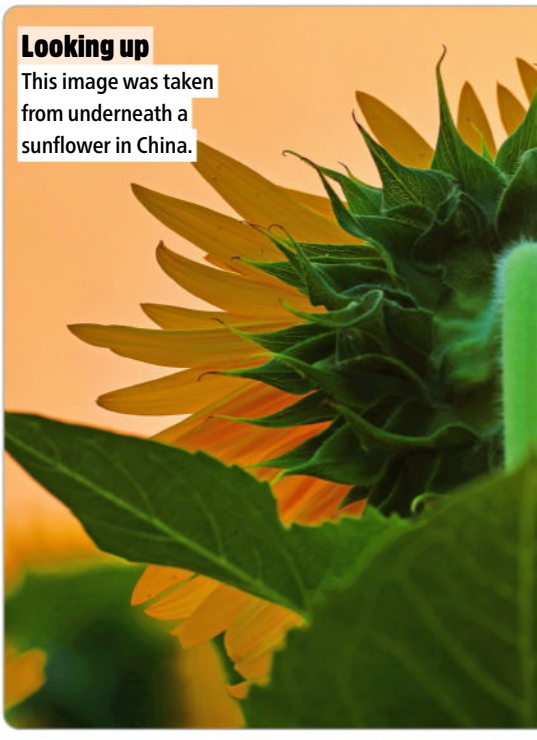
A new smart motorcycle helmet has an air filter to make riding safer and more comfortable. The ZYON helmet protects riders from injuries while also preventing them from breathing in smog and fumes.

The ZYON helmet has a four-layer filter built into the chin guard that traps large particles, dust, allergens, and harmful gases. It also includes a sun visor and a rear light to provide greater visibility, and it transmits data about air quality to a mobile app. The app also sends alerts when it's time to replace the filter.

GETTY IMAGES (2); ZYON; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; USNO; NMAH

Photos of the week

Eyes wide open
This Eurasian eagle-owl was photographed at an animal care center in Turkey.



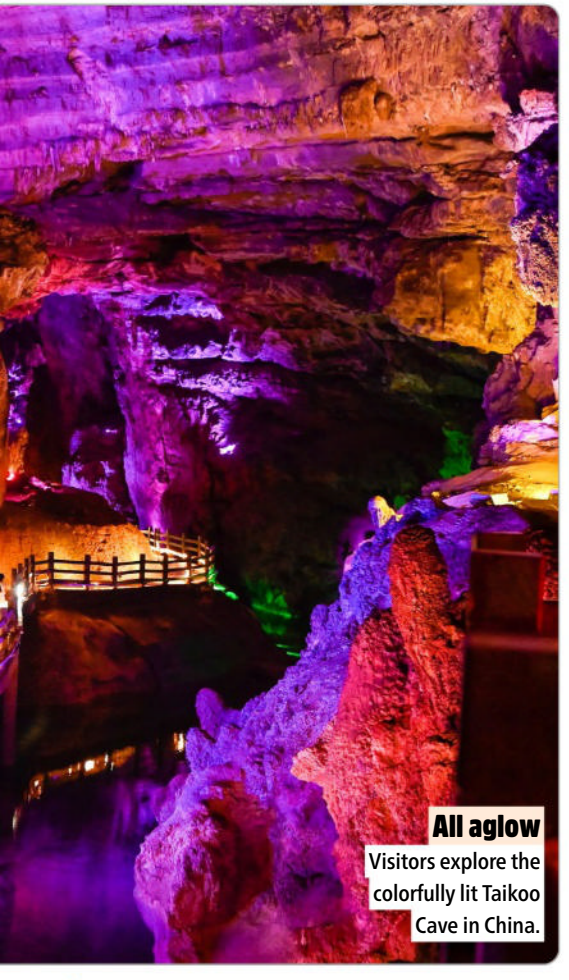
Looking up
This image was taken from underneath a sunflower in China.

Mountain view
A great yellow gentian, a type of herb, blooms at a high altitude in Italy.

GETTY IMAGES (6)

Photos of the week

Underground art
A museum in Spain features replicas of prehistoric cave paintings of animals.



All aglow
Visitors explore the colorfully lit Taikoo Cave in China.

Buzzing about
In India, a bee collects nectar from a flower.

SPORT SWITCH
Two players from the 1982 Little League World Series grew up to become National Hockey League stars.

The team from Chinese Taipei

Big baseball tryouts

The Women's Pro Baseball League launches in 2026. From August 22–25, nearly 600 athletes tried out for spots in the league's draft. One of them was Mo'Ne Davis, who made history in 2014 as the first girl to earn a win as a pitcher in a Little League Baseball World Series.

Chinese Taipei wins Little League title

From August 13 through August 24, players from the US and other countries competed in the Little League Baseball World Series (LLBWS) in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania. In the championship game, Chinese Taipei beat a team from Las Vegas, Nevada, 7–0. It was the first time Chinese Taipei had won the LLBWS since 1996. They now have 18 titles overall, the most of any non-US team.

The LLBWS features 10 US teams and 10 international squads, all made up of players ages 10 to 12. To qualify for the tournament, hundreds of teams competed in local, state, and regional games. The US teams, which were from different regions of the country, played in one bracket, while the international teams competed in the other. Each bracket then had a champion that advanced to the LLBWS final.

Lin Chin-Tse

The Nevada team, which represented the Mountain region, won their first three games by a combined score of 22–4. They lost their next game to an undefeated team from Connecticut, which represented the Metro region, but then won a game after that to qualify for the US championship. In that competition, they faced Connecticut again and won, 8–2, to make the World Series final.

In the international bracket, Chinese Taipei represented the Asia-Pacific region. They dominated their opponents, preventing other teams from scoring any runs in their first two games. They won their first four games by a total of 15–3, and in the international final, they beat Aruba, which represented the Caribbean, 1–0.

Chinese Taipei continued their strong play against Nevada. Pitcher Lin Chin-Tse didn't allow any Nevada players to reach base in the first five innings of the six-inning game. Chinese Taipei scored in the second and third, then had a five-run fifth. Their closing pitcher, Chen Qi-Sheng, helped secure the team's fourth shutout in five games.

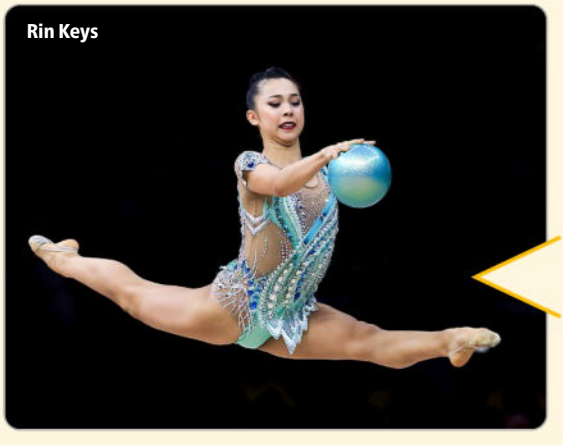
Chin-Tse's performance capped an incredible run at this year's LLBWS. In an earlier game, the 12-year-old threw a pitch with a speed of 82 miles per hour, an impressive feat for a young player. He had 11 scoreless innings across four appearances and allowed two hits while striking out 20 batters.

This is the first international LLBWS champion since 2017. In last year's final, a different team from Chinese Taipei lost to a team from Florida.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

In one of the season's first games on August 23, the University of Hawaii beat Stanford University in a 23–20 comeback win. Hawaii kicker Kansei Matsuzawa, a former soccer player who watched YouTube to learn how to kick footballs, made a game-winning 38-yard field goal. Also that day, Iowa State beat Kansas State, 24–21, in a rivalry game known as Farmageddon. It was played in Dublin, Ireland.


Rin Keys

SOCCER

In NWSL action, the Washington Spirit beat Bay Area FC, 3–2, on August 23. The match was held at Oracle Park in San Francisco, California, and drew 40,091 fans, the most ever for a professional women's sports event in the US.

GYMNASTICS

On August 24, Rin Keys of the US earned a silver in the ball routine at the World Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships. The 16-year-old is the first American to earn a medal at that competition.

TOP TEAM New Zealand has won six Women's Rugby World Cups, the most of any country.

Ilona Maher (third from left) and the US rugby team

Women's Rugby World Cup begins

Top rugby teams from countries around the world, including the US, have gathered in England for the Women's Rugby World Cup. Matches began on August 22, and the championship final will be held on September 27.

This is the 10th edition of the tournament, which is typically held every four years. More tickets have been sold for this year's event than ever before. England's team, known as the Red Roses, is ranked number one in the world and is the favorite to win. Other top teams include Canada, New Zealand, and France.

Rugby is a sport similar to American football. The version played at the World Cup is rugby union, which features 15 players on each side and two 40-minute halves. There are 16 teams competing in the tournament, and they were divided into four pools for the group stage at the start of the tournament. The top two teams in each group will qualify for the knockout stage.

The US team, nicknamed the Eagles, won the first Women's Rugby World Cup in 1991. Today, they are ranked ninth in the world. One US star is Ilona Maher, who helped the US win a bronze in rugby sevens (a shorter, faster version of the sport) at the 2024 Paris Olympics. One of her World Cup goals is to raise awareness of the sport in the US.

The Eagles lost their first group stage match to England, 69–7. There were 42,723 people in attendance, which set a Women's Rugby World Cup record. Forward Erica Jarrell-Searcy scored the lone points for the US. The Eagles will face Australia on August 30, and their final group stage match will be against Samoa on September 6.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Clare Shea**

Team: **Earthquake Girls 2010 (soccer)**

"Clare Shea is such an awesome coach! She always does drills that are fun and make our team better at soccer. She also encourages us and makes us better people, and that's hard to find in a coach. I went through some hard times, and she was always there for me. She kept me trying to fight for anything, whether it was winning gold at a tournament or just making it through practice. She is so inspiring, motivating, and smart." Clara, 14, Alaska

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Malik Jones

AGE: 22 SPORT: SLED HOCKEY
TEAM: USA

The countdown is on for the 2026 Milano Cortina Olympic and Paralympic Games in Italy. September 6 marks six months to go until the Paralympics. Meet one athlete hoping to win his second gold medal there.

Active life I was born with a disability. As a child, I did hand cycling and some other adaptive sports, but my grandmother wanted me to do more. When I was about 7, she found a local sled hockey program. From the first time I jumped on the ice, it was like I was made to do this sport. I really love how fast-paced and physical it is. When I watched the Paralympics on TV, I realized I could put myself in that position if I worked hard and stayed disciplined. So that's what I did.

Rink time I'm on the ice for about two hours, four times a week. I'll also work out in the gym twice a week. On the ice, we do a lot of passing, shooting, and skating drills. It's a lot of hard work, but it's fun.

Big day I competed in my first Paralympics in 2022. In the gold medal game, we were up 5–0 as the clock ran down. You get an adrenaline rush, and everything you've done to get to that moment plays in your head. Celebrating with my team was one of the greatest feelings. I can't wait to do it again.

Drive to win In 2024, our team lost the gold medal game at the World Championships. It was very painful, but when a team wins over and over, the amount of work you put in may not be as much as you'd put in when every game is competitive. So we did the work and won the gold this year. I hope we can continue that run because the sport is growing and teams are getting better and better.

GETTY IMAGES (3); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); WPBL

HONORED SPECIES
Rhinos are sacred in India and Nepal, where they are seen as symbols of strength, power, and good fortune.

The Last Rhinos: A New Hope

Inside an effort to save rhinos

A new documentary follows a wildlife team on a quest to help a nearly extinct species survive.

There are only two northern white rhinos left on Earth, and the pressure is growing to prevent the species from becoming fully extinct. The new documentary *The Last Rhinos: A New Hope* follows the team of scientists and caregivers working hard to help the animals survive. It is streaming on Disney+ and Hulu.

The rhinos, Najin and her daughter Fatu, live under 24-hour guard at Kenya's Ol Pejeta Conservancy. Neither of them can reproduce naturally, but in recent years, scientists have taken steps that could turn Fatu into a mother one day. In a lab, they combined reproductive cells from female southern white rhinos, a closely related species, with cells from male southern white rhinos, to create embryos (unborn babies in early stages of development).

Ami Vitale

The embryos were implanted into female southern white rhinos with the hope that one would develop into a healthy calf. The approach could be used to save the northern white rhinos as well as other endangered species.

The film follows scientist Thomas Hildebrandt as well as photographer and filmmaker Ami Vitale, who has documented Najin and Fatu for more than a decade, and rhino caretaker Zacharia Mutai. To safely get up-close footage of the animals, the film crew used creative methods such as mounting cameras on helicopters and strapping one to a veterinarian's head.

Jan Stejskal, a scientist in the documentary, told *The Week Junior* that *The Last Rhinos* is an "urgent story that deserves to be told." He said it demonstrates how teamwork is an essential part of making progress, and he hopes the efforts seen on screen will inspire awareness and action. "It's worth fighting for nature and wild places, even when success isn't guaranteed," he said.

3 facts about rhinos

Shrinking population

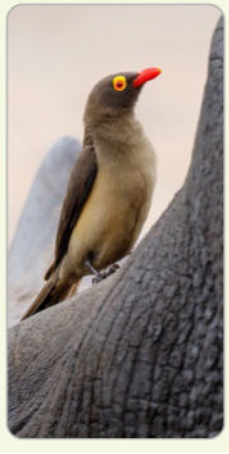
There are five rhino species left on Earth. Two types live in Africa, and three are found in Asia. All 76 remaining Javan rhinos live in Ujung Kulon National Park in Indonesia (right).

Signature feature

Unlike most horned animals, such as goats and bison, a rhino's horn isn't made of bone. It grows from the skin and is made primarily of keratin, which is the same protein found in human hair and fingernails.

Feathered friends

Red-billed oxpeckers are birds that ride around on rhinos and other large African mammals. They have sharp eyesight and squawk loudly when they spot danger, informing the rhinos about nearby threats.



The Sound of Music

Hamilton

TONGUE TWISTERS
Some songs in *Hamilton* are rapped at a fast pace of just under 200 words per minute.

Special releases of movie musicals

This year, two famous musicals are celebrating major milestones. It is the 60th anniversary of *The Sound of Music* and the 10th anniversary of *Hamilton*. As a treat for fans, each film is coming to movie theaters across the US.

Hamilton is an award-winning show about Alexander Hamilton, one of America's founders and the person on the $10 bill. It was written by Lin-Manuel Miranda and is famous for its hip-hop and rap songs. The show made its premiere on Broadway in 2015, and the stage production was filmed in 2016 and made into a movie. It was set to be released in October 2021, but because of the pandemic, it came out on Disney+ in 2020 instead.

Lin-Manuel Miranda

The film will finally play in movie theaters starting September 5. In a statement, the film's director, Thomas Kail, said the *Hamilton* team was "thrilled that audiences will now have the opportunity to experience it on the big screen."

The Sound of Music is another popular and award-winning musical based on the lives of real people. Set in Austria in 1938, it follows a free-spirited nun, Maria, who works as a governess for the seven von Trapp children and teaches them to sing. One of the film's most well-known songs is "Do-Re-Mi."

Earlier this year, actress Angela Cartwright, who played Brigitta, one of the children, was on a UK TV show and spoke about the movie's lasting success. "We knew when we were filming it that there was something magical about it," she said.

A film restoration team spent nine months enhancing the 1965 film's audio and visuals for the anniversary. It will play in select theaters from September 12 through September 17.

READER RECOMMENDS

The Owl House *(Disney+)*

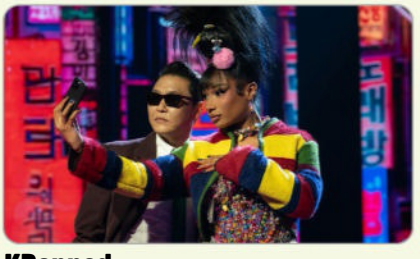
"This fantastic show is about Luz, a teen who doesn't fit in very well since her dad died. Her mom signs her up for a camp that teaches kids to 'think inside the box,' but before her bus comes, Luz chases an owl into an abandoned house and ends up in a whole new world: the demon realm. There, she meets a witch named Eda, a funny and energetic demon, and a little fuzzy creature named King, who thinks he is the king of all demons. (Spoiler alert: He's definitely not.) The series always keeps me on my toes and has me laughing. It is a perfect show to watch with your family." Joey, 11, New York

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

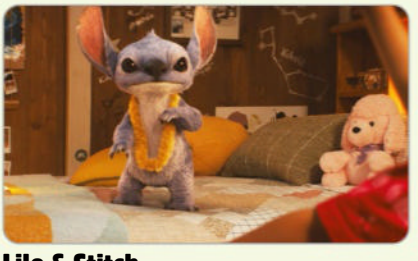
Pokemon Concierge
(Netflix)

This stop-motion animated series centers on Haru, a young woman working as a concierge (someone who assists hotel guests) at a resort for Pokémon creatures. In a new set of episodes, Haru learns life lessons through her interactions with visitors such as Shinx and Luxray.



KPopped
(Apple TV+)

Rapper Megan Thee Stallion and other music stars from the US and UK team up with K-pop groups in this new competition series. The groups reimagine one of the stars' hit songs in K-pop style, then face off against each other in front of a voting audience in Seoul, South Korea.



Lilo & Stitch
(Disney+)

The hit live-action adaptation of Disney's animated classic is now streaming. It follows Lilo, a Hawaiian girl who meets a mischievous alien, Stitch. As she teaches him about the importance of family, two aliens disguised as humans search for Stitch so they can return him to their planet.

ALAMY; DISNEY (3); GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF NETFLIX; APPLE TV+; ON LEFT PAGE: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (2); SHUTTERSTOCK; GETTY IMAGES (2)

HEADING TO EUROPE
In the next NBA season, games will be played in Berlin, Germany, and London, England.

Angel Reese in NBA 2K26

Latest edition of hoops action

The most popular basketball video game franchise is about to release its newest edition. NBA 2K26 comes out on September 5 for the Nintendo Switch and Switch 2, Xbox systems, PlayStation platforms, and PC. It is the official game of the NBA (National Basketball Association) and the WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association).

Being on a 2K cover is an honor, and the standard edition of the new game features Oklahoma City Thunder star Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (inset photo), the NBA's Most Valuable Player last season. The WNBA edition cover features Angel Reese, a two-time All-Star who plays for the Chicago Sky.

NBA 2K26 has better graphics than ever and new additions to gameplay modes. (The Switch version is less advanced.) To help make the action on the court even more realistic, the game's developers updated their ProPLAY technology, which relies on actual NBA footage to create player animations. They also gave gamers more control over players' movements and shots. If you want to create your own athlete, you can use MyPlayer Builder. A new element in that mode is the Animation Glossary, where you can search for moves that real pros make and assign them to your player.

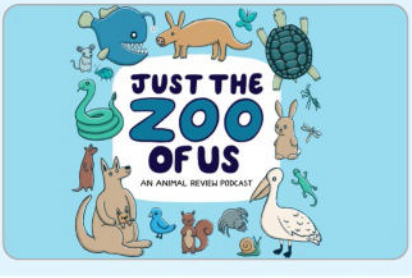
The game is fun if you simply want to play ball, but you can experience more of the hoops world, too. For example, you run a team in MyGM and focus on your player's rise in MyCAREER. In the online mode MyTeam, you pull trading cards to build teams, then complete challenges and earn points.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

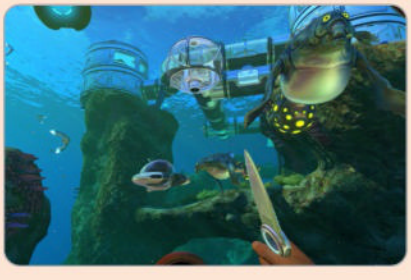
JUST THE ZOO OF US

justthezooofus.com and major platforms

The hosts of this series, along with an occasional expert guest, discuss different animals and rate them on a scale of 1 to 10 for their effectiveness, ingenuity, and appearance. Episodes have included discussions about species such as the box jellyfish, pangolin, and vampire squid.



GAME OF THE WEEK



SUBNAUTICA

iPhone and iPad, Android devices, Nintendo Switch, PC, PlayStation platforms

This popular console game is now available on mobile devices. It involves underwater exploration on an alien ocean planet. In addition to piloting a submarine and encountering all types of wildlife, you'll need to craft equipment to help you survive.

CHANNEL OF THE WEEK

CITY BEAUTIFUL

youtube.com/@CityBeautiful

The creator behind this channel is an expert in city planning. He posts informative videos that cover topics such as why some countries move their capitals, how one-way streets can be troublesome, and the debate over whether restaurant drive-thrus should be banned.

TAKE-TWO INTERACTIVE SOFTWARE, INC. (2); MAXIMUM FUN; UNKNOWN WORLDS ENTERTAINMENT; CITYBEAUTIFUL VIA YOUTUBE

BOOK CLUB PICK FOR SEPTEMBER

Schoolbot 9000

By Sam Hepburn

(Dial Books for Young Readers)

James, an 11-year-old aspiring artist, lives in a time when AI-powered robots are part of home life. But James wishes he could spend more time with his mom and less with the heartless robot. He looks forward to school, which is a robot-free zone. But that changes after parents vote to introduce a robot, Schoolbot 9000, to help students improve their test scores. Schoolbot is supposed to assist the teachers but soon takes the lead. In a few cases, Schoolbot is helpful—it turns a dry history lesson into a memorable song the class loves. However, for the most part, Schoolbot oversteps its bounds, shutting down projects and providing students with harsh feedback. It even breaks a violin because it doesn't think the student playing it has potential. The company that developed Schoolbot promises they'll upgrade the technology to be empathic, but will it instead carry out a secret plan to replace human teachers? This thought-provoking graphic novel is the first in a new series and ends on a cliff-hanger.

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *Schoolbot 9000*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to *contests@theweekjunior.com* with Schoolbot in the subject line. Enter by midnight on September 19. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

With eye-catching art, *Schoolbot 9000* explores the pros and cons of AI in the classroom and what might happen if robots replaced teachers. Here are questions to get a conversation going with friends and family who have also read the book.

Why does James have a harder time accepting Schoolbot than his friends do?

What would you change about Schoolbot?

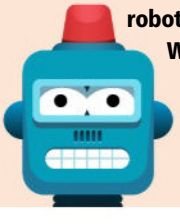
Do you think Schoolbot encourages or discourages creativity? Why?

What one word best describes the principal?

Who do you think is to blame when Schoolbot insults students?

Would you like having a robot as a teacher? Why or why not?

How does the artwork bring the story to life?



JOIN *THE WEEK JUNIOR* BOOK CLUB

Find out more about *The Week Junior* Book Club and check out our previous book of the month selections at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

Ask the Author

Sam Hepburn is the creator of two comic strips, and she previously worked in advertising before becoming a full-time cartoonist and author. *Schoolbot 9000* is her first middle-grade graphic novel.

How did you get the idea for this book?

I came up with the idea while I was writing stories about smart robots for a big company. I realized that today's kids will be the first generation to grow up with the AI tool ChatGPT. I wanted to write a story that grapples with important questions, such as "Are we giving too much over to technology?"

How long did it take you to write?

I started working on the book in 2021. I wrote most of the text, then I created the illustrations. Once a publisher bought the story, I spent another year finishing it.

Did you always love to draw?

Yes! When I was young, my friends and I would have drawing competitions in the back of our workbooks. But when I got to college, I majored in advertising, rather than art, because my parents thought it would be a career I'd be more likely to succeed in.

What books did you enjoy when you were growing up?

My cousin and I had all the Calvin and Hobbes comic strip collections between us. We would share them and make printouts to hang on our walls!

Do you have any advice for kids who want to be cartoonists?

Watch a variety of cartoons and read different kinds of comic strips and graphic novels to see what resonates the most with you. That's how you'll find your voice.

Favorite school supply?

I love pens, especially the ones that write in multiple colors.

BOOK: COURTESY OF PUBLISHER; AUTHOR: COURTESY OF SAM HEPBURN; GETTY IMAGES

BONUS COOKING SECTION

Make fast dishes on busy days

Check out these recipes for delicious meals, snacks, and treats to whip up before or after school.

AVOCADO MELON SMOOTHIE

Ingredients

- 1 cup cubed honeydew melon
- ½ ripe avocado
- 1 frozen banana
- Juice from ½ lime
- 1 cup ice cubes

Instructions

1. Combine the honeydew melon, avocado, banana, lime juice, and ice in a blender. Puree until smooth.
2. Add a splash of cold water to thin as needed. Makes 1 smoothie.

VERY BERRY
Avocados are considered a single-seeded berry, not a vegetable, and are native to Central America and Mexico.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using a knife, stove, oven, or blender for any recipes on these pages.

MEDITERRANEAN SALMON RICE BOWLS

Ingredients

- ½ cup whole-milk Greek yogurt
- ¼ teaspoon cumin
- ¼ teaspoon paprika
- Juice and zest of 1 lemon
- 1 pound skinless salmon fillet, cut into 1½-inch cubes
- Salt and pepper
- 2 cups cooked rice, for serving
- 13.5-ounce can chickpeas, drained and rinsed, for serving
- 1 chopped cucumber and/or tomato, for serving
- ⅓ cup crumbled feta cheese, for serving
- Store-bought tzatziki (a type of yogurt sauce), for serving (optional)

Instructions

1. Heat oven to 425˚ F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large bowl, combine yogurt, cumin, paprika, and lemon juice and zest. Add salmon cubes and toss to coat.
2. Arrange the salmon pieces on the prepared baking sheet and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake salmon for 5 minutes. Switch the oven to broil and cook until salmon is golden and charred in spots, about 4 minutes more.
3. Divide salmon among bowls of rice and top with chickpeas, cucumber and/or tomato, feta, and tzatziki, if using. Serves 4.

ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE

MORNING QUESADILLA

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 6 eggs, beaten
- 2 large flour or corn tortillas
- ½ cup cream cheese
- Crumbled or cubed cooked bacon or ham (optional)

Instructions

1. Melt half the butter in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add the eggs and scramble until just set. Remove the eggs and set them on a plate.
2. Spread the cream cheese over the tortillas.
3. In the same skillet (no need to wash), melt the remaining butter. Add one tortilla, cream-cheese-side up, then carefully top with the scrambled eggs and bacon or ham, if using.
4. Set the other tortilla on top, cream-cheese-side down, and cook until golden. Flip the quesadilla and cook until the other side is golden and crisp. Makes 2 servings.

EGG-CELLENT
Iowa leads the US in table egg production—about 13 billion eggs were produced in the state in 2024.

CARAMELIZED NECTARINES

Ingredients

- 4 nectarines, sliced
- 2 tablespoons butter, cut into pieces
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- Vanilla ice cream, for serving
- Honey roasted nuts, for serving (optional)

FUZZ-FREE FRUIT
Nectarines are a type of peach with smooth skin that originated in China more than 2,000 years ago.

Instructions

1. Heat oven to 400˚ F. Spread the nectarine slices in an 8-inch square baking dish and dot with the butter. Drizzle the honey evenly over the fruit and sprinkle with the cinnamon.
2. Roast the nectarines 30 minutes, stirring once, until the juices are bubbling and the fruit looks caramelized.
3. Divide fruit among 4 bowls. Top with a scoop of vanilla ice cream and sprinkle with nuts, if using. Serves 4.

PB&J OVERNIGHT OAT PARFAITS

Ingredients

- 1 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1½ cups of raspberry or strawberry yogurt
- ¼ cup peanut butter, almond butter, or nut butter alternative
- ½ cup fresh raspberries, mashed, plus more for topping

Instructions

1. Combine the oats and yogurt in a bowl and mix well.
2. Spoon a portion of your preferred nut butter into the bottom of each of 4 small glass cups.
3. Top with a portion of the yogurt oats mixture, followed by a layer of mashed berries. Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight.
4. Top with a few whole fresh raspberries before serving. Makes 4 parfaits.

THAT'S NUTS
The average American eats about 7.9 pounds of peanuts, in various forms, each year.

TUNA MELT SLIDERS

Ingredients

- 1 package pretzel bun sliders (such as King's Hawaiian brand)
- Two 5-ounce cans of tuna, drained
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ pound sliced cheddar cheese
- Dill or bread-and-butter pickle chips

FUN FACT
The first restaurant believed to have sliders on the menu was White Castle in Wichita, Kansas, in 1921.

Instructions

1. Heat oven to 350° F. If your slider buns are not pre-sliced, use a bread knife to slice the block of rolls in half horizontally, keeping them intact as best you can. Fit the bottom halves into an 8-inch square baking pan.
2. In a medium bowl, break up the tuna with a fork until uniformly mashed. Add the mayonnaise and mustard and stir to combine.
3. In a small bowl, combine the melted butter and garlic powder and stir to combine. Set aside.
4. Layer half the cheese onto the bottom rolls in the baking pan. Spoon the tuna salad onto the cheese and spread in an even layer. Top the tuna with a layer of pickle slices and then a layer of the remaining cheese. Fit the top half of the rolls into the pan.
5. Pour melted butter mixture over rolls and bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until the bread is toasty and the cheese is melted. Makes 9 sliders.

ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE

LEMONY WHITE BEAN STEW

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 2 ribs celery, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 4–6 baby potatoes, chopped
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 2 cans white beans
- ½ cup small pasta shape (such as ditalini)
- 2 handfuls chopped or baby kale
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese, plus more for topping
- Juice of 1 lemon

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using a knife, stove, oven, or blender for any recipes on these pages.

Instructions

1. Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium-high. Add the onion, carrots, celery, and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until the veggies start to soften, about 5 minutes.
2. Add potatoes and broth. Bring mixture to a simmer. Cover pot and cook 5 to 7 minutes more, until potatoes are just tender.
3. Add 1 can of the white beans and blend with an immersion blender until smooth. (If you don't have an immersion blender, carefully transfer stew to a blender and puree.) Add the pasta and kale and cook until pasta is al dente.
4. Stir in remaining can of white beans, grated Parmesan, and lemon juice. Divide among bowls and top with more cheese. Serves 4.

RANCH YOGURT DIP

Ingredients

- 1 cup whole-milk Greek yogurt
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- 2 teaspoons white wine vinegar
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Assorted veggies, for dipping

Instructions

1. Combine all the dip ingredients in a bowl and mix well.
2. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
3. Serve with assorted vegetables of your choosing for dipping. Makes about 1 cup.

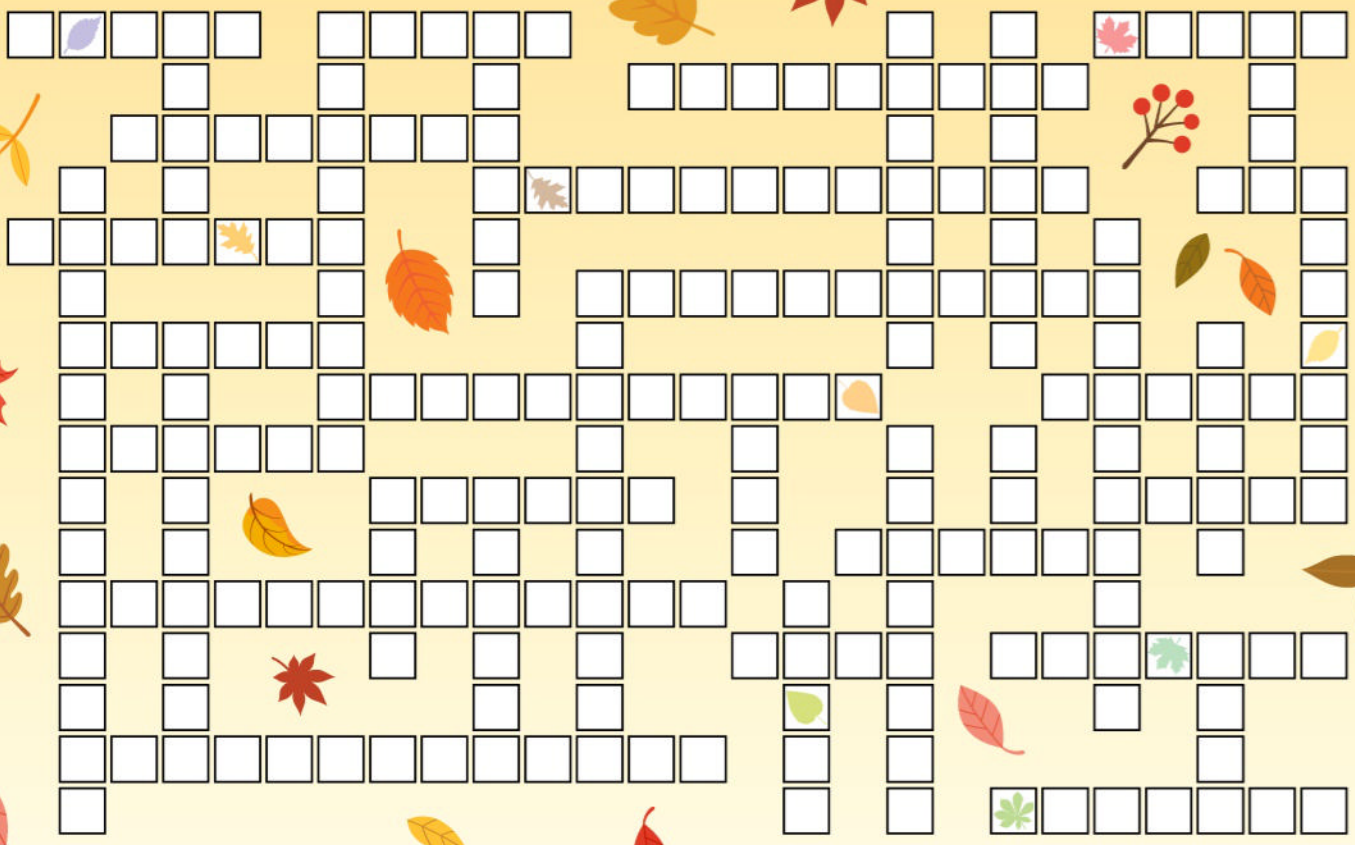
DID YOU KNOW?
Ranch dip or dressing gets its name from a California dude ranch, where it was first made.

Brain testers and teasers

Fall colors crisscross

Each of these things that are red, orange, or yellow fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid? When you're done, nine letters will appear in boxes with colored leaves. Transfer those letters into the matching boxes below to get the answer to the riddle.

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 37.



3 letters
SUN
YAM

4 letters
CORN
CRAB
GOLD
LAVA
ROSE

5 letters
AMBER
APPLE
BLOOD
CHICK
EMOJI
HONEY
WAGON

6 letters
BANANA
BUTTER
CANARY
CHERRY
GARNET
ORANGE
RADISH

7 letters
APRICOT
LADYBUG
MUSTARD
PAPRIKA
PUMPKIN
TAXICAB

8 letters
HOT SAUCE
TURMERIC

9 letters
CRANBERRY
ORANGUTAN
TANGERINE

10 letters
FIRE ENGINE
STRAWBERRY

11 letters
FIRST AID KIT
RUBBER DUCKY

12 letters
RUBY SLIPPERS

13 letters
BARBECUE SAUCE
CHEDDAR CHEESE
SCRAMBLED EGGS

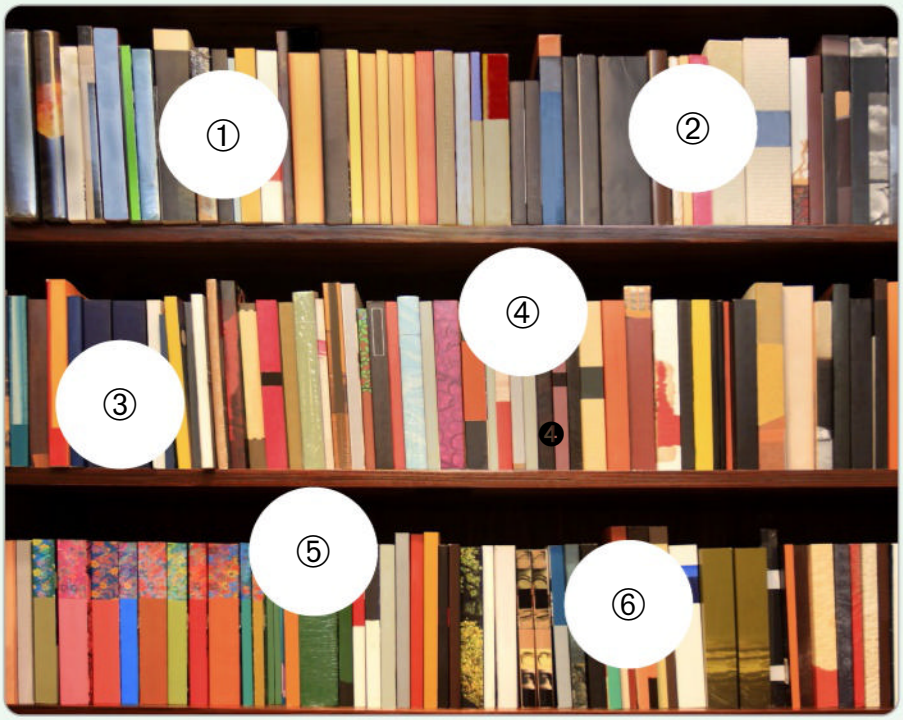
Q: How do leaves change color?

A: —

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

DETAILS, DETAILS

Six pieces have been removed from this photo of a book shelf. Can you match the circular details under the photo with the numbered sections they came from?



A B C D E F

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Juggling act

Use the letters A, P, and R in any order to complete each four-letter word.

A	P	R	
H			
		I	
			Y
S			
		M	
			K

Rhyme & reason

Answer each clue with a rhyming phrase like FIX STICKS. Then transfer the highlighted letters into the numbered boxes at the right to reveal the mystery rhyme. Work back and forth to solve the whole puzzle.

Soreness felt after overuse of an autumn lawn tool

		1				9	4

Noises from horses enjoying the kind of corn the Pilgrims ate

		2		6				8	5		

Comfy bed cover used as a typical bagpiper's clothing

				10		7		3	

Mystery rhyme

What you might brag about on a windy day

1	2	3	4						
5	6	7	8	9	10				

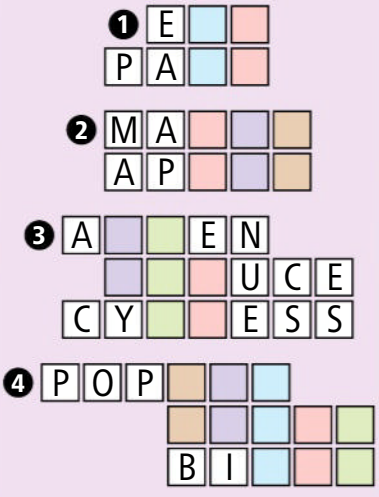
GETTY IMAGES

Puppy pairs

Look at the 65 dogs pictured below—can you find the only one that isn't shown along with its identical match?

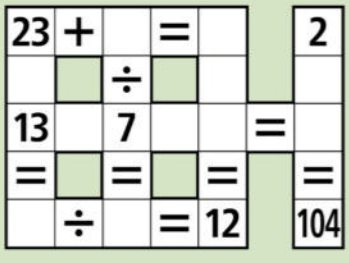
Letter fall

Fill in the blanks to spell the names of trees. In each set, boxes with the same color have the same letter. The color code changes in each set.



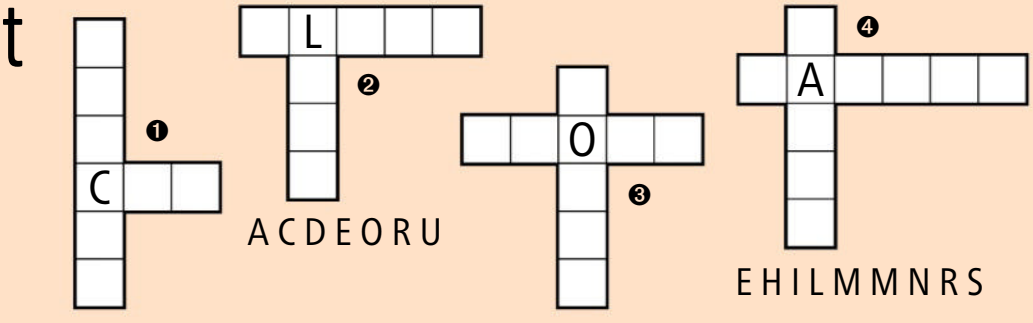
Mega crossmath

Fill each empty box with a number or a mathematical symbol (+, —, x, or ÷) to complete the equations across and down. A symbol can be used more than once.



This & that

Use the letters given beneath each grid to fill in two words that are "and" pairs, like BOW and ARROW. The letter where the words cross is given.



PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Back-to-school word search

Can you find all these school supplies in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

```
    B E S F O E R K L U N C H B A G S E
  C A L E N D A R C P R U W I P E S B T B
S B E S H X E R E A S T E N G A M R S P I L C
T B R C L O C K S P S A S U H S E E R L N T S S
E A W E I A B O T D K S E O F L B A K I L D L S K E S
L P A D S D L E K C C L U R P I G T C M P E N S O N O I
R L A S S A I T A S A B A O R G A N I Z E R R E O P A
  E D T O W C T E R B E U H S H E E T M D T O Y B
  R L E R R N A P R O T R A C T O R S S E E A E
    R U S R E T S O P R O R S E M A R K E R
      S R E P A P N O I T C U R T S N O C
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BACKPACK
BINDER
BINS
BOOKS
CALENDAR
CASE
CHALK
CLIPS
CLOCK
CONSTRUCTION PAPER
CRAYONS
ERASER
GLUE
HIGHLIGHTER
HOOKS
LABELS
LUNCH BAG
MAGNETS
MARKER
ORGANIZER
PADS
PASTE
PENCIL BOX
PENS
POSTERS
POST-ITS
PROTRACTOR
RULER
SCISSORS
STAPLER
STENCIL
STICKERS
TACKS
TAPE
TIMER
WIPES

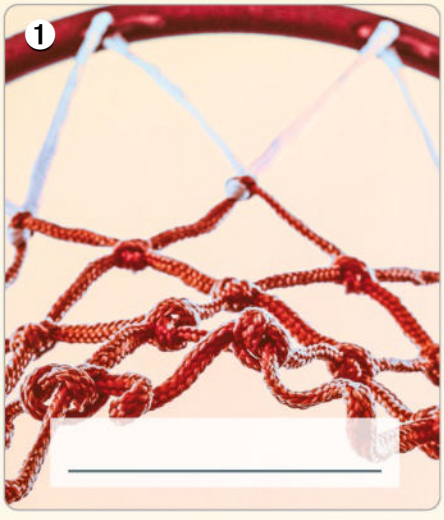
Spot the difference

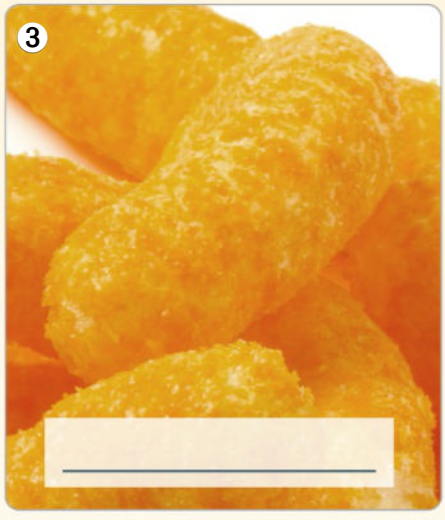
These two pictures of an autumn scene appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

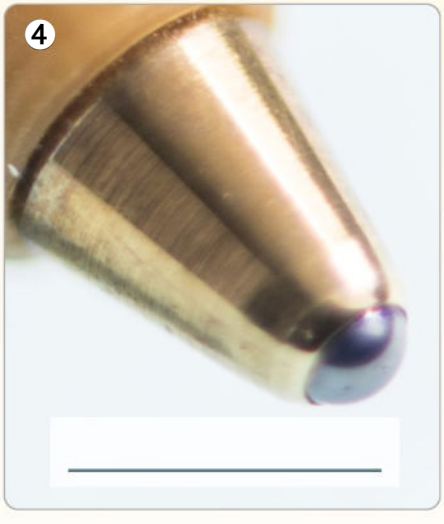
GETTY IMAGES

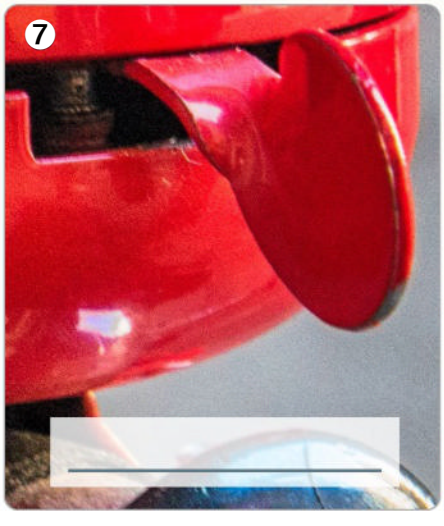
Up close

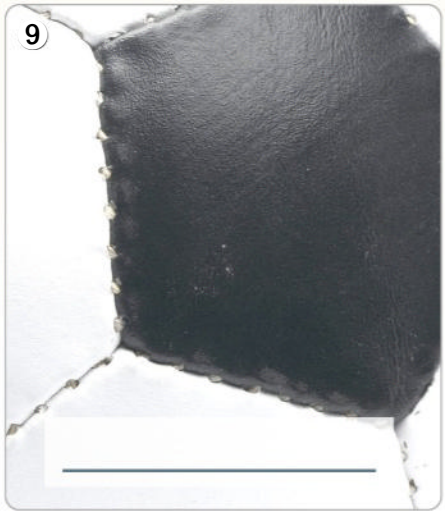
Each of these photos is an extreme close-up of something familiar. Can you recognize each one?











PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

"Batter up!" word ladder

To change the word HOME into the word RUNS, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.

	H O M E
Item hooked up to a sprinkler	
Person who welcomes you to a party	
Put a story on Instagram	
Make a sad or sulking face	
What you do with a pitcher of water	
"That's ball ___, he's walking to first." (Number of bad pitches required for a walk)	
"Runners on first and second. There's the pitch.... It's a ___ ball." (Out of bounds)	
Wrapping for leftovers	
Be unsuccessful at a goal	
"Another pitch...and a swing.... This one is ___!" (In bounds)	
Two items that match	
Took care of a bill	
Uttered	
"The batter is running to first.... Safe! Good thing she ___!" (Came in along the ground)	
Slender	
"The pitch.... Wow! Over the fence! A grand___!" (Home run with bases loaded)	
Line formed where fabric is sewn together	
"And everyone on the ___ is going wild!" (All the players)	
Rip up	
Animal that hibernates in the winter	
"They were trailing by three, but they ___ their opponents!" (Defeated)	
Like your legs, when you're sitting down	
"Everyone expected him to ___!" (Hit the ball softly to make the pitcher field it)	
Hot dogs are eaten in them	
	R U N S

GETTY IMAGES

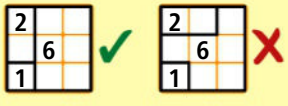
Find the match

Can you tell which two of these pictures are the same?

Four corners

Divide this grid along the lines into rectangles and squares so a single number appears in each shape. That number must match the number of boxes making up the shape.

EXAMPLE



	4			2	
			5		
4	2			4	
					5
		2		4	
	3	1			

A canine surfer hangs ten.

Surfer dogs catch the waves

Thousands of people attended the World Dog Surfing Championships in Pacifica, California, where pups rode the waves on their own four legs. Pets dog-paddled out into the ocean, and their owners helped them onto surfboards to show off their skills. Judges evaluated how long dogs kept their balance and whether they performed any tricks, like turning around as they surfed. One star surfer, a yellow lab named Charlie, knows how to steer and heads for the waves anytime he's at the beach. In the water, his owner said, "Charlie does what Charlie wants to do."

A winning breakfast

Try Pat's pocket pancakes

Move aside, peanuts and Cracker Jacks—pocket pancakes are the newest baseball snacking craze. After Milwaukee Brewers manager Pat Murphy went viral for eating a pancake straight out of his uniform pocket during an interview, the team decided to share this peculiar snack with fans. At Sunday home games for the rest of the season, stadium-goers can purchase either the "Ball Four Pocket Pack," which includes four pancakes, or the "Double Chicken 'n' Pancakes Pocket Pack," featuring two pancakes stuffed with chicken tenders, bacon, and a maple syrup drizzle.

Wood you like to visit?

The Big Apple in miniature

A truck driver has constructed a 3D replica of New York City using only wood and glue. In 2004, inspired by the view from his bedroom window, Joe Macken began creating one miniature building each night. Now, he said, he builds his detailed models during "every minute of spare time." Macken spent 12 years replicating Manhattan's lofty skyscrapers and parks and nine more making the city's other four boroughs. Together, they form a 30-by-50-foot mini Big Apple. He plans to re-create four more US cities, starting with Minneapolis, Minnesota.

From bath time to the finish line

Rooting for rubber duckies

Chicago has its ducks in a row. Every August, thousands of little yellow rubber ducks float down the Chicago River to boost fundraising for Special Olympics Illinois. Residents watch the ducks as they race along the river, and people can "adopt" one by donating to the cause. This year, 82,659 ducks were adopted. The lucky adopters whose ducks placed first, second, or third won big prizes like a car, cash, or tickets to a Chicago Cubs baseball game. The Ducky Derby "is more than a fun race," said the nonprofit's president, it's "a celebration of inclusion."

Spectacular sand sculptures

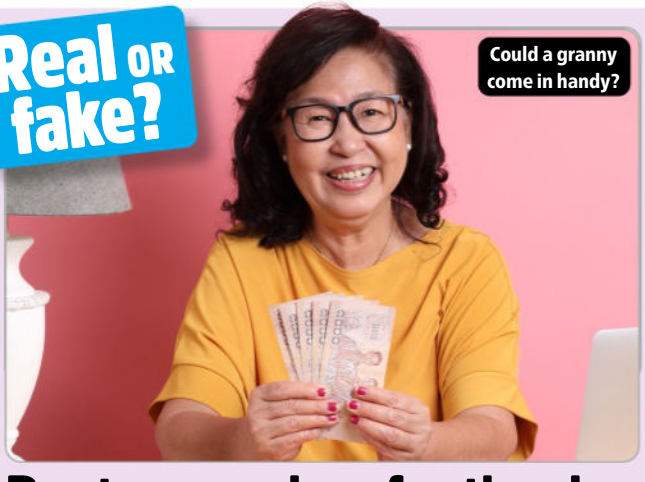
What do SpongeBob SquarePants, Darth Vader, and a bowl of strawberries have in common? Mark Lewis has sculpted all of them out of sand. The UK man began making sand sculptures with his sons in 2010 and has now made more than 200 seaside artworks. Instead of the standard bucket and shovel, Lewis uses rulers, brushes, and garden tools to build and decorate his creations. This year, he went viral for sculpting a 3-foot-long pair of Crocs shoes. Lewis said he hopes to put "a smile on someone's face as they discover something unexpected."

Town on the alert for toy croc

Panic gripped the Italian town of Ladispoli, near the city of Rome, after images posted on social media sparked fears of a crocodile lurking in a nearby river. Ladispoli's mayor, Alessandro Grando, warned residents to be careful, and the police launched a drone to investigate the animal sighting. The croc hunt ended when a local woman identified the beast as an inflatable toy that had been left on a playground. The mayor later confirmed that someone had taken the photos as a prank and said "there are no dangerous reptiles in the Sanguinara River."

A horse race fit for the stage

A theater in the UK recently trotted out a special fundraising campaign with its first-ever "He's Behind You" race. On August 4, Ripon racecourse in North Yorkshire, England, welcomed some highly unusual competitors: six pantomime horses, each with two human runners crammed inside. The winner was Hot Trotty, beating rivals Sinbad's Delight, Sticky Wicket, Press Up Percy, Panto Professionals, and Bring the Drama. The race was held as part of an effort to raise about $170,000 for Harrogate Theatre, which is celebrating its 125th birthday.



Rent a grandma for the day

A company in Japan is offering a unique service: For the rate of about $22 per hour, you can rent a grandma to help you out. The women are between the ages of 60 and 94 and can provide a wide range of services, including emotional support. People often request that the grandmothers teach them life skills, such as how to do chores, babysit, or handle tricky situations. These women can also cook homemade meals, knit clothes, and even weigh in on family feuds. Is this real, or do you see a wrinkle in our story?*

*Reall The OK Obaachan ("Okay Grandma") program was created in 2012 as part of an effort to find jobs for women of all ages. The company says the seniors it employs have "rich life experience" to share and often find purpose in helping others.

JAMES GLOSSOP/THE TIMES & SUNDAY TIMES; MARK LEWIS; SHUTTERSTOCK; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; MLB.COM; AP; HANS PENNINK; SHUTTERSTOCK

Editor's note

This week I am giving a round of applause to the workers at the London Zoo, who have met the difficult challenge of assessing the health of all 10,000 animals that live there (p3). From tiny Darwin's frogs to towering giraffes, the animals were weighed, measured, and examined. Can you imagine trying to get a huge camel onto a scale or enticing an energetic lemur to stay still long enough to have its vital statistics taken? I appreciate this tremendous undertaking, not only because it demonstrates the dedication of the zoo's staff but because the information they gather is also shared with animal caregivers and conservationists around the world in a massive global effort to protect thousands of species. From everyone at *The Week Junior*, thank you! Our editorial team will be taking a break over the next week and will return after that to bring you Issue 283.

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Bat Conservation International

This organization works to save the habitats and ecosystems of bats. It educates communities about local bat populations and researches solutions to protect bats from disease. For example, the group revived a bat population in Mexico by planting the bats' food source. Find out more at batcon.org.

Gardening for a cause

Cooper, 12, Massachusetts

"Every summer since I was 7 years old, I have run an organic roadside zucchini stand in my front yard. Once there are enough zucchini in our backyard garden, I open the stand. My favorite part is meeting new people and telling them about my summer project. At the end of the summer, I donate all the money I have earned to the Clean Air Task Force, a group that works to combat and limit the effects of climate change. Last year, I donated more than $600! This is my own way to make a difference."

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

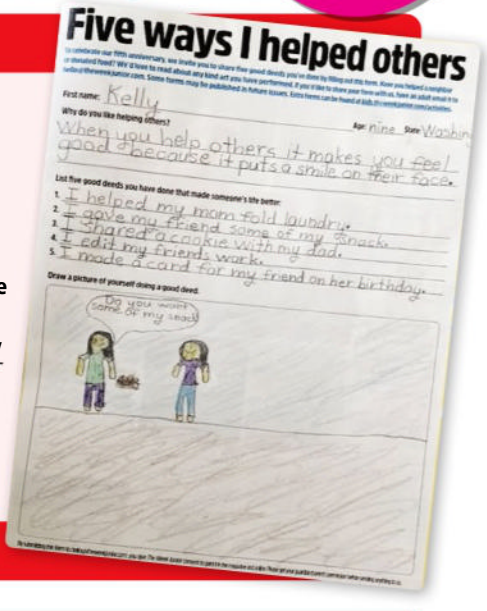
JOKE OF THE WEEK

Why is a pony so quiet?

It's always a little hoarse.

Your five good deeds

Kelly, a 9-year-old from Washington, enjoys helping others. Kelly's good deeds include helping her mom fold laundry and sharing her snacks with friends. To celebrate *The Week Junior*'s fifth anniversary in 2025, we're asking readers to share five good deeds they've done. Have you helped a neighbor or a friend or performed a kind act? Go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to download a form like the one shown at right. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the submissions on this page in future issues.



Five ways I helped others

First name: Kelly Age: nine State: Washington

Why do you like helping others?
When you help others it makes you feel good because it puts a smile on their face.

List five good deeds you have done that made someone's life better:
1. I helped my mom fold laundry.
2. I gave my friend some of my snacks.
3. I shared a cookie with my dad.
4. I edit my friends work.
5. I made a card for my friend on her birthday.

Draw a picture of yourself doing a good deed.

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

BRAIN TESTERS AND TEASERS (pages 28–33)

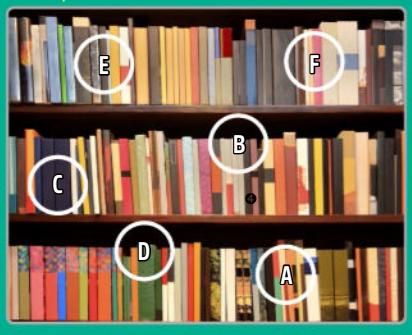
Letter fall

1. ELM / PALM
2. MAPLE / APPLE
3. ASPEN / SPRUCE / CYPRESS
4. POPLAR / LARCH / BIRCH

Up close

1 basketball hoop
2 tape measure
3 cheese curls
4 ballpoint pen
5 toast inside a toaster
6 top of a battery
7 bicycle bell
8 button on denim pants
9 soccer ball

Details, details



Puppy pairs

Spot the difference

This & that

SAUCER / CUP ① / CLEAR / OUD ② / SHOES / CKS ③ / NAILS / HAMMER ④

Rhyme & reason

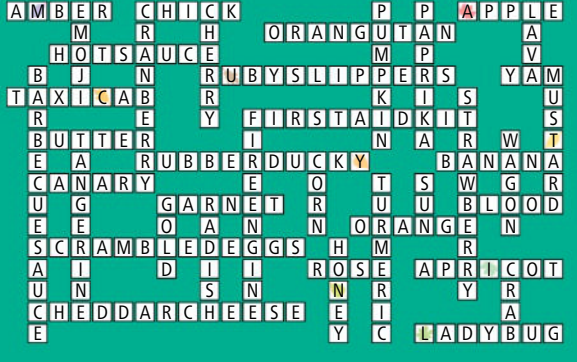
rake ache
maize neighs
quilt kilt
Mystery rhyme:
kite height

"Batter up!" word ladder

HOME
HOSE
HOST
POST
POUT
POUR
FOUR
FOUL
FOIL
FAIL
FAIR
PAIR
PAID
SAID
SLID
SLIM
SLAM
SEAM
TEAM
TEAR
BEAR
BEAT
BENT
BUNT
BUNS
RUNS

Fall colors crisscross

Riddle answer: AUTUMN-ATICALLY



Juggling act

harp
pair
pray
spar
ramp
park

Four corners

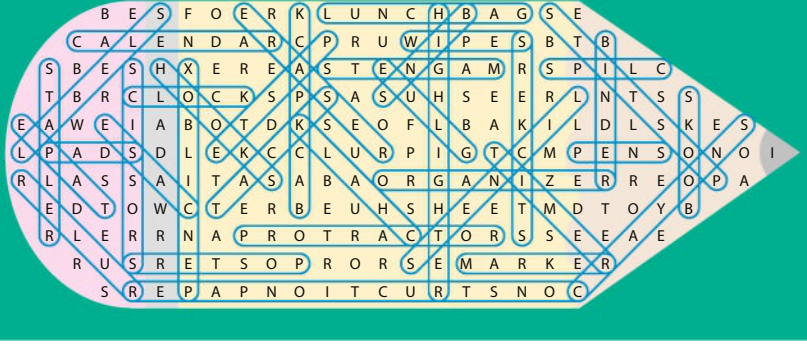
	4			2
			5	
4	2			4
				5
		2		4
	3	1		

Find the match

Numbers 1 and 4 are the same.

Back-to-school word search

Unused letters: Before rubber erasers, wads of balled-up moist bread were used to erase errors.



Mega crossmath

23	+	21	=	44		2
+		÷		−		×
13	+	7	+	32	=	52
=		=		=		=
36	÷	3	=	12		104

QUIZ (page 38)

1 b) Angel Reese **2** False. It has been spinning faster than usual. **3** *The Tennessee Kid* **4** a) Eagles **5** a) Egypt **6** Donkey Kong **7** c) Acadia National Park **8** True **9** a) 60th **10** Nevada **11** False. The parents vote in favor of the robot. **12** c) Klamath **13** True **14** Northern white rhinos **15** a) Chicago, Illinois

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

How much of this issue's news can you remember?

1 Which player is on the cover of the WNBA edition of the video game NBA 2K26?

a) A'ja Wilson b) Angel Reese

c) Caitlin Clark

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? Earth has been spinning slower than usual this summer.

True ☐ False ☐

3 What was the name of Nate Bargatze's breakout comedy special?

4 What is the nickname of the US women's rugby team?

a) Eagles b) Red Roses c) Sevens

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 Remnants of a 2,000-year-old sunken city were recently recovered off the coast of what country?

a) Egypt b) Italy c) Greece

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 The Nintendo character Mario first appeared as Jumpman in what game?

7 Which location did *The Old Farmer's Almanac* predict would have the best fall foliage this year?

a) Adirondack Mountains

b) Ozark Mountains

c) Acadia National Park

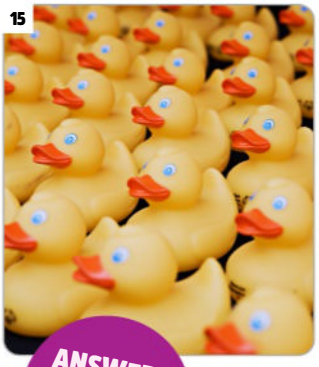
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 True or false? Tracks found in Canada suggest that different species of dinosaurs traveled together in herds.

True ☐ False ☐

9

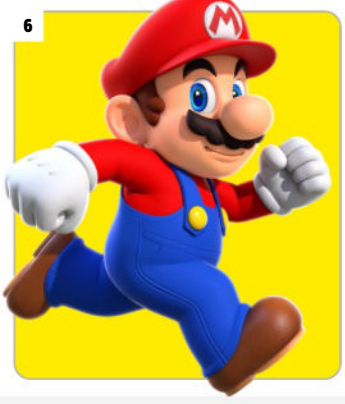
15



ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 37.

8

6



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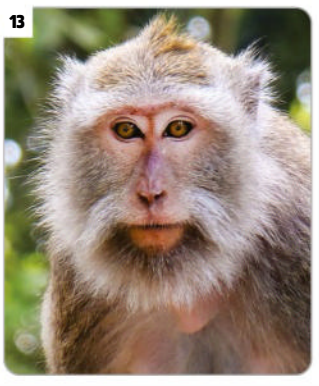

9 The movie *The Sound of Music* is celebrating which anniversary this year?

a) 60th

b) 80th

c) 100th

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 Chinese Taipei defeated a team from which US state to win the Little League Baseball World Series?

11 True or false? In the book *Schoolbot 9000*, the students vote in favor of having a robot in the classroom.

True ☐ False ☐

12 This summer, a group of Native American teens kayaked the full length of which river?

a) Ohio

b) Yukon

c) Klamath

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? Monkeys at Indonesia's Uluwatu Temple steal visitors' valuables to exchange them for treats.

True ☐ False ☐

14 The documentary *The Last Rhinos: A New Hope* follows a team trying to save what kind of rhinoceros?

15 Which US city recently hosted its annual Ducky Derby?

a) Chicago, Illinois

b) St. Louis, Missouri

c) Houston, Texas

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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NINTENDO; GETTY IMAGES (3); ALAMY

“It helps in school by keeping me up to date with news.”

— Elizabeth

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ANCIENT ARCHES

The Pont du Gard in the South of France is a bridge-aqueduct the Romans built in the 1st century. It used gravity to transport water across the top to a nearby city.

GETTY IMAGES